

FOOTSTEPS
What it Really Means to Follow Jesus

THE IDENTIFICATION TEST

Matthew 3:13-17

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The Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. Matthew 3:13

Is baptism really that important?

1. Jesus was baptized in Bethany beyond the Jordan.

These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. John 1:28

* Jesus traveled over 60 miles just to be baptized.

2. Jesus was baptized in the baptism of John.

And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." Acts 19:4

A. John's baptism was a baptism for sinners.

... and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. Matthew 3:6

B. John's baptism seemingly had no significance for Jesus.

3. Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness.

But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. Matthew 3:14-15

A. Jesus' baptism was an act of righteousness.

B. Jesus' baptism was an act of identification with sinners.

*Now it came about when all the people were baptized,
that Jesus also was baptized ... Luke 3:21*

*He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with
the transgressors. Isaiah 53:12*

C. Jesus' baptism was applauded by the Trinity.

4. We are baptized to fulfill all righteousness.

A. Baptism does not save you, Jesus does.

*Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who
have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he? Acts 10:47*

B. Baptism is an act of obedience.

C. Baptism lets the world know you belong to Jesus.

*For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him will the Son
of Man be ashamed when He comes in His glory, and the glory
of the Father and of the holy angels. Luke 9:26*

Have you received the Holy Spirit?

Have you been baptized (immersed) since you believed?