

Baptism & The People Crusher!

Intro Song: "American Anthem For Life" by Brian Flynn

Into Prayer:

Father in Heaven,
when the Spirit came down upon Jesus
at His Baptism in the Jordan,
You revealed Him as Your own Beloved Son.
Keep me, Your child,
born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to my calling.
May I, who share in Your Life
as Your child through Baptism,
follow in Christ's path of sacrifice for the people.
Let me become one in His Sacrifice
and hear His Word with faith.
May I live as Your child,
following the example of Jesus.

Matthew 3:

[1] In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

[2] "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

[3] For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

[4] Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

[5] Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan,

[6] and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

....

[11] "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

....

[13] Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

[14] John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

[15] But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented.

[16] And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him;

[17] and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- Points:

- John evokes the return of the Prophet Elijah
 - Preaching in the Wilderness
 - Is. 40:3
 - Garment of Camel's Hair
 - 1 Kings 1:8
 - The people were expecting his return:
 - **Malachi 4:** [5] "Behold, I will send you Eli'jah the

prophet before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. [6] And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."

- Sirach 48:10
- The pouring out of the Holy Spirit
 - Is. 32:15
 - Ezek 39:29
 - Joel 2:28-29
- Cleansing MY People with Water:
 - **Is. 44:3**
 - - [3] For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your offspring.
 - Ez. 36:25
- a NEW Joshua!
 - Joshua 3
 - Rising EARLY on the 3RD day
 - God saying THIS day I will BEGIN to exalt you to the people!
 - Taking 12 men
 - being led by the Ark of the Covenant
 - crossing through the water of the Jordan
 - on Dry land
 - entering into the promised land
 - possessing the LAND/KINGDOM!
- A NEW Creation!
 - Like Genesis 1
 - The Spirit of the Lord hovers above the waters of creation
 - from the deep comes LIFE!

- So now does the Spirit of God hover over the waters of a NEW creation...
 - A New Adam
 - the Son of God whom He is well pleased - exhausting HIM in front of the People!
 - A NEW Joshua
 - crossing the Jordan
 - ON the 3rd Day! entering into the Kingdom of Heaven - the REAL promised land!
 - Also choosing 12 men from among the people!
 - Also being led by Priests & the Ark - Mary!

John 3:

1. [1] Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicode'mus, a ruler of the Jews.
2. [2] This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him."
3. [3] Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
4. [4] Nicode'mus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"
5. [5] Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
6. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
7. [7] Do not marvel that I said to you, `You must be born anew.'
8. [8] The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit."

9. [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can this be?"
10. [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this?"
11. [11] Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony.

BREAK

1. [12] If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?
2. [13] No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man.
3. [14] And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up,
4. [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."
5. [16] For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
6. [17] For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.
7. [18] He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
8. [19] And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
9. [20] For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.
10. [21] But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.
11. [22] After this Jesus and his disciples went into the land of

Judea; there he remained with them and baptized.

- Points:
 - Nicodemus
 - literally means - the People Crusher!
 - a Pharisee & RULER of the Jews
 - **Matthew 23:**
 - [1] Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples,
 - [2] "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat;
 - [3] so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice.
 - [4] They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger.
 - [5] They do all their deeds to be seen by men;...
 - Comes by NIGHT -
 - still in the darkness
 - Fear of the Pharisees?
 - Are we Christians in the light or darkness?
 - lacks understanding!
 - He was familiar with all the OT prophecies about the Messiah & Baptism... & yet!
 - Notice the 2 double entendre Jesus uses here:
 - Born anew/Again - Another
 - Born again? - Nicodemus
 - Born from above! Jesus
 - by WATER & Spirit
 - CAN'T enter into the Kingdom unless!
 - Spirit - Pa-new-ma
 - Wind - blows where it wills

- So it is with the SPIRT
 - "By capitalizing on the double meaning of this expression, Jesus reasons that if the direction & destiny of the wind is mysterious, then the mission of the holy spirit is even more so in the lives of believers". St. Ignatius Study Bible - John 3:8
 - Do you see the link to Genesis 1?
 - Water
 - Spirit
 - NEW LIFE!
- Is Baptism the context:
 - **John 1:33** - Spirit DESCENDS from on high on Jesus at His Baptism
 - **John 2:6** - 6 stone WATER jars for purification at a wedding!
 - **John 3:5** - born a new with WATER & Spirit!
 - **John 3:22** - [22] After this Jesus and his disciples went into the land of Judea; there he remained with them and baptized.
- Just in case you didn't see the link:
 - **1 Peter 3:**
 - [18] For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit;
 - [19] in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison,
 - [20] who formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

- [21] Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- [22] who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.