

HEAVEN & EARTH

BAPTISM OF JESUS

## *Matthew 3 (ESV)*

*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 fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable 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?”*

## *Matthew 3 (ESV)*

*15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*

# The Point

Before Jesus has accomplished anything His Father speaks from heaven saying,  
“Behold My Son in whom I am well pleased.”

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# God's Beloved Son

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# God's Beloved Son

- Jesus comes to the Jordan not as a sinner needing repentance, but as the sinless Son identifying with us (Matthew 3:13–14).
- The heavens opening show that God is stepping toward humanity, not away from it (Matthew 3:16).
- The Father's voice affirms Jesus before His ministry begins  
- identity comes before activity (Matthew 3:17).

# God's Beloved Son

- God's declaration, "My beloved Son," reveals Jesus' eternal relationship with the Father'

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1-2 ESV)*

## God's Beloved Son

- The Father's pleasure in Jesus is rooted in who He is, not what He has done.

*42 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. (Isaiah 42:1 ESV)*

Humility &  
Obedience

# Humility & Obedience

- Jesus submitted to baptism “to fulfill all righteousness,” showing perfect obedience (Matthew 3:15).
- He willingly stood in the water with sinners, demonstrating humility & compassion.

(Philippians 2:6–8)

# Humility & Obedience

*6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6–8 ESV)*

# Humility & Obedience

- Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of His public ministry
  - obedience opens the door to God's purposes.

*21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:21–22 ESV)*

# Humility & Obedience

- Jesus shows that no one is above obedience to God's will, not even the Son of God.

*8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. (Hebrews 5:8 ESV)*

- His example teaches us that obedience is not about earning God's love but responding to it.

*15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”  
(John 14:15 ESV)*

God  
*delights*  
in you!



# God Delights in You

- God's pleasure in Jesus shows His desire for relationship, not performance (Matthew 3:17).
- Through Jesus, believers are adopted as God's children & share in His delight.

(Galatians 4:4–7)

# God Delights in You

*4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:4–7 ESV)*

# God Delights in You

- God's love for His children is secure, even in seasons of weakness or decline.

*38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38–39 ESV)*

- The Spirit descending like a dove symbolizes peace, comfort & God's nearness (Matthew 3:16).

# God Delights in You

- Seniors can rest in the truth that God's delight is not based on productivity but on belonging.

*13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.*  
*(Psalm 103:13–14 ESV)*

## Practical Application

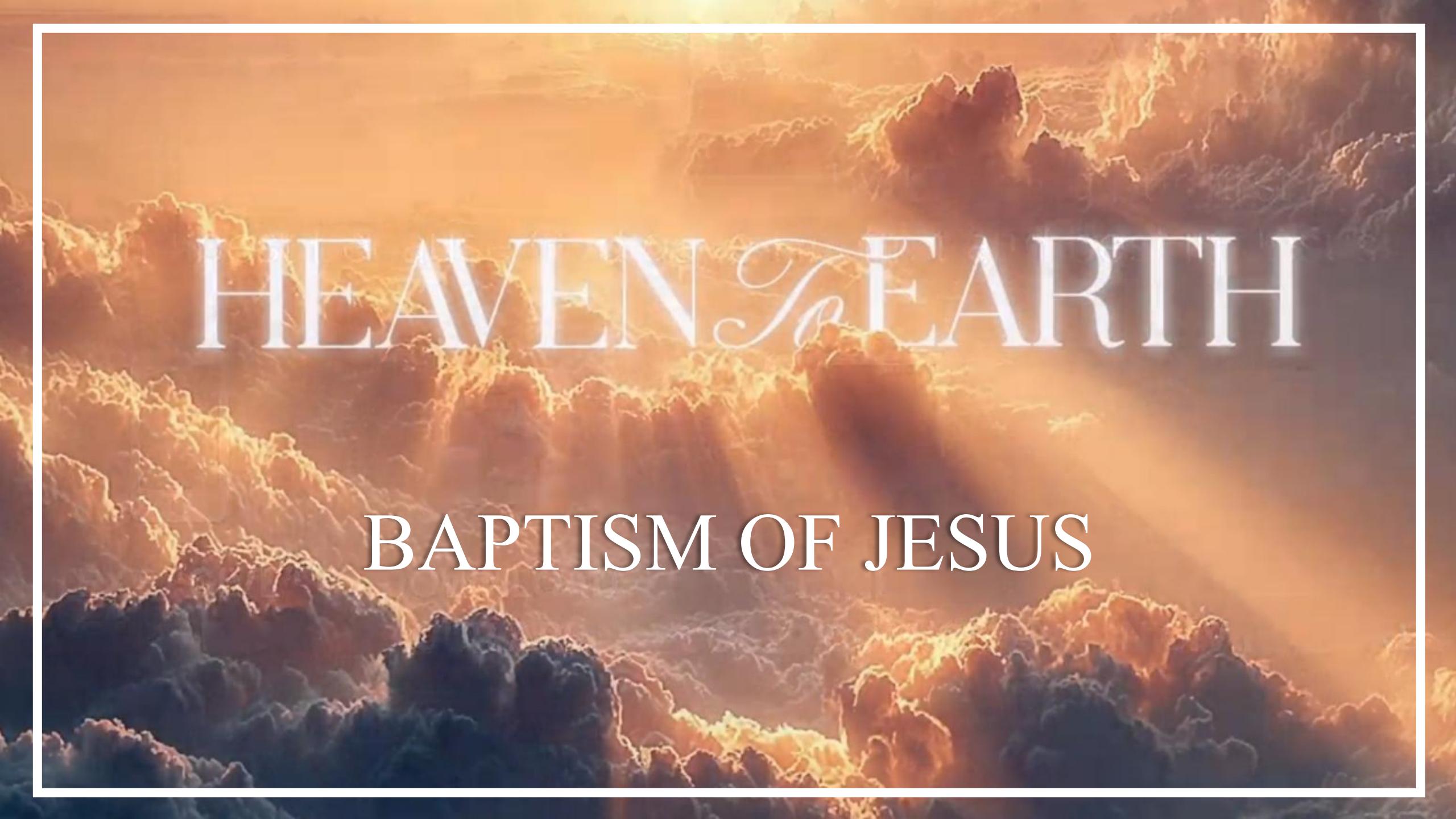
- Rest in the truth that God's love for you is not based on what you can do, but who you are in Jesus.
- Remember that your identity as God's child remains strong even as life circumstances change.
- Follow Jesus' example of humble obedience in daily choices - small acts of faithfulness matter.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to bring peace, comfort & assurance in this season of life.

## Practical Application

- Reflect on moments when God affirmed you or carried you - share these stories with others.
- Encourage younger family members or caregivers by reminding them that God delights in them too.

## Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to you that God loved & affirmed Jesus before He began His ministry?
- How does knowing you are God's beloved child bring comfort in this season of life?
- In what ways does Jesus' humility at His baptism encourage you in your own walk with God?
- How have you experienced God's pleasure or affirmation during your lifetime?



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