

Message #2

Inauguration Day

Mark 1:9-11

Introduction:

Ever four years our nation gathers together to witness a historic event. In November the election results are tallied and we know who the next President of the United States will be in late January. It might be the current President or perhaps the voters decided the country needed to go a new direction. But every four years the nation gets to decide on a new leader and in January the nation gathers to celebrate the official beginning of the President.

It seems with the passing of every four years the celebrations become larger and the event becomes more important. During the course of that day there is much celebration. The President and the First Lady will attend various formal balls in the evening. Prior to all of those official parties there is an official Parade from the Capitol Building that leads back towards the White House. Thousands will gather at the parade to catch a glimpse of the new President and to be a part of history.

Inauguration Day is honestly an amazing day. Within a matter of just a few minutes leaders are replaced peacefully as decided upon the people living in the United States. Inauguration Day serves as a strong reminder that in all of America's greatness and

imperfections that anybody can become President. That is easier said than done but the principle remains true.

The reason why America gathers to be a part of this historic day is the direct result that even today many countries in the world do not experience such a day of celebration. The elections are rigged if elections even exist. In most countries still today the will of the people does not prevail. As a result there is not much to celebrate.

Those who harshly come into power still call for celebrations but there is not much rejoicing. All the pomp and circumstance seems harshly empty and little hope remains.

In Mark Chapter One we read of Jesus' Inauguration Day. Christ's declaration as both the Messiah and the Son of God. Christ officially begins his official ministry and march towards the cross. Christ's Inauguration Day does not look anything like any earthly expectation. His Kingdom is not forced, there are no big celebrations, but the guest list to this event would impress any royal figure or head of state.

As we continue our study in the gospel of Mark let's read together Mark 1:9-11 and I've included two verses from the Gospel of Matthew to help us have a more complete picture of this historic event:

Mark 1:9-11 (with Matthew 3:14-15)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son with you I am well pleased."

Today's message is more of a study sermon than anything else. In order to move forward with all that Mark writes in his gospel we must have a complete understanding of all that is going on in these few verses of Scripture.

Jesus' Inauguration Day does not happen in any of the palaces in Jerusalem or in the Temple where everyone thought God resided. There are not millions watching surrounding the Temple as Jesus is announced. **Instead it occurs miles away from Jerusalem in the muddy river waters on a hot day on the banks of the Jordan River.** The leaders of the Jewish community are all not gathered in their finest, instead probably a few hundred farmers and their families. And in fact they were not here to see Jesus but were already here listening to the prophet of God and being baptized. The truth is on this Inauguration Day nobody is expecting this, including John the Baptist. By this time

John knew that Jesus was the Messiah but had no idea of all that was about to take place.

Let's examine this section and ourselves first this question?

What Does Jesus Baptism Mean?

If Jesus Baptism is his official inauguration for ministry what does this day mean?

So let's begin?

What Does Jesus Baptism Mean?

1. It Means That John's Baptism Was Ordained By God

Everyone was wondering who was John the Baptist and why is he telling everyone they need to be baptized. With Jesus being baptized by John it shows Jesus himself submitting to God's authority on the issue. If John the Baptist was really a prophet and God was speaking through him, then even Jesus must be baptized. Jesus submits to the authority of God through John's message.

If Jesus came to fulfill the law of God and 'all righteousness' that includes submitting and obeying God's 'last Old Testament command' which came from John the Baptist of repenting and being baptized for the forgiveness of sins. This

is a significant mark. Something brand new is happening and being created as the Old Testament law is coming to a final close right before their very eyes. That's powerful.

2. **Jesus Baptism means that this was Christ's Divine appointment to be revealed as God's Son.**

Even John the Baptist had no clue what was about to take place nor did he see everything that was truly going on. In fact he was very hesitant to baptize Jesus. John understood that his message was for repentance and forgiveness. Jesus needed none of that. But now for the first time we see the final prophet of God submitting to the Son of God. John consented. The Pharisees could not get John to consent on anything. The Sadducee's tried to get John to consent but to no avail. In fact Roman guards tried to stop John but instead a few of them were convicted to John's message.

Only Jesus knew what was about to take place and what this baptism fully meant for Jesus but also for everyone.

3. **Jesus baptism means His full-time earthly ministry officially begins, His ministry towards the cross, to seek and to save that which is lost.**

At this point Jesus has no official disciples and has never performed a miracle. To

everyone with the exception of possibly John the Baptist and his mother he is only known as a Carpenter from Nazareth who knew the Bible amazingly well and was a good man. But now it is time for Jesus' ministry to begin and for the revealing of Jesus to take place. Jesus knows, John has a clue, and the rest are about to learn. Jesus will spend three and a half years in His earthly ministry. Jesus begins his ministry at the age of thirty.

4. Jesus' Baptism Means A Newly Created Community of God's People

We are going to see many events in the life and ministry of Jesus where Jesus becomes the personification of Israel. Jesus says that His baptism fulfills all righteousness. Something new is happening. No longer will they be bound to the prophet Moses but will become set free by God's Son. Moses predicted that one would be coming after Him that was greater than himself and commanded Israel at that time to 'listen to him'. Something new is being established and out of it is a new community of the people of God. Something new and something greater.

As you can tell this is not your ordinary Inauguration Day. The ministry of John the Baptist is quickly fading and the One that He came to prepare the way for is taking center stage now. The way has now been prepared and Jesus Messiah begin His earthly ministry. Inaugurations Today include having the richest and the famous come to attend. Usually the guest lists at the Inauguration and the celebrations that follow are impressive to say the least. But on this hot day on the bank of the Jordan all of Heaven shows up. Let's reread this text in Mark:

And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son with you I am well pleased."

The Baptism of Jesus has deep significant meanings but it also reveals three powerful truths. Let's briefly look at what the Baptism of Jesus reveals:

As Jesus comes up out of the water (which means he was 'down in' the water) three powerful signs are given and all three carry with them powerful revelations of Jesus and this moment:

- 1. The Baptism of Jesus Reveals that all of Heaven Agrees with Jesus and What Just Took Place.**

Most of the world missed what just happened but all of Heaven watched and took note. The text says that literally Heaven was 'ripped' open across the sky. Jesus

tells us that when a sinner repents the angels in heaven rejoice....we can only imagine what is going on in all of Heaven as Jesus is being officially declared Messiah and Son of God to the world.

Remember even Mary, Jesus' mother was told to keep quiet about all these things and all she could do was ponder them in her heart. Certain truth about Jesus were only made known to a select few but now they are being both revealed and announced. All of Heaven is a witness to it!

2. **Jesus' Baptism Reveals The Holy Spirit Rests On Jesus**

The text says that the Holy Spirit descended as a dove. This is a physical manifestation of the Spirit of God. The next time we see this will be at Pentecost. John the Baptist witnessed this and so did the crowd. The Holy Spirit now rests solely on Jesus. John the Baptist's work is now done and the transition from John the Baptist to Jesus is now official and everyone can see this for their own eyes. This also confirms to anyone that wondered if Jesus is the one whom John had promised would come. It is appropriate for all of this to happen to those that were being obedient through following and listening to John the Baptist.

3. **Jesus' Baptism Reveals God's Seal of Approval**

The first sign was the Heavens open up and the onlookers catch a glimpse of Heaven. The second sign was the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus. Everyone saw

this and understood what it meant. The final revelation comes from God himself and God gives His seal of approval and first announcement of who Jesus really is.

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."

God declares that Jesus is more than just a Messiah but God's son. These words are not random but rather a fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy:

Psalm 2:7

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD : He said to me, "You are my Son"

Isaiah 42:1

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.

The crowd standing witnessing the glory of Heaven, the Spirit descend, and the voice of God were witness to one of the most significant events in human history. They heard prophecy fulfilled through the voice of God himself. God said that this was His Son with whom He is well pleased. It has been said that our confession must be nothing less than that of God's. **I agree with that.**

I do not know for sure but I believe it is safe to bet that anyone standing around after witnessing all that who might have been 'on the fence' about all that was

going on including baptism quickly jumped in the water. No doubt a celebration occurred. I have no doubt that tears were shed over this powerful moment. I have no doubt that praises were sung to God. I have no doubt dancing took place on the banks of the Jordan over all that had just happened.

This was a powerful moment. The baptism of Jesus has deep significant meanings and revealed publicly for the first time who Jesus really is, declared by God himself.

As we conclude our message today and our time together one question remains that everyone wrestled with during Jesus' ministry: This is the question:

Now that we know that Jesus is the Messiah,

What Kind of Messiah Is Jesus?