

MATT 3

P "I baptize you ¹with water for ¹¹repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not ²worthy to carry; he will baptize you ¹with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Q His winnowing fork is in his hand, ¹²and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

R Compare § 58 portion D

MARK 1

P And he preached, saying, "After ⁷me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not ²worthy to stoop down and untie. ¹⁸I have baptized you ¹with water; but he will baptize you ¹with the Holy Spirit."

R Compare § 58 portion D

LUKE 3

whether perhaps he were the Christ, John answered them all, ¹⁶

P "I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not ²worthy to untie; he will baptize you ¹with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Q His winnowing fork is in his hand, ¹⁷to clear his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

R So, with many other exhortations, ¹⁸he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been ¹⁹reproved by him for Hero'di-as, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added ²⁰this to them all, that he shut up John in prison.

Section 18

§ 18 The Baptism of Jesus by John

MATT 3:13-17

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

B John would have prevented him, ¹⁴saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus ¹⁵answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

C And when Jesus was baptized, he ¹⁶went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened ⁴and he saw the Spirit of God descending ⁷like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, ¹⁷saying,

D^p "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

MARK 1:9-11

A In those days Jesus came from ⁹Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John ³in the Jordan.

C And when he came up out of the ¹⁰water, immediately he saw the heavens ⁵opened and the Spirit descending ⁶upon him ⁷like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ¹¹

D^p "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."

LUKE 3:21-22

A Now when all the people were ²¹baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized

C and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended ²²upon him in bodily form, as a dove, and a voice came from heaven,

D^p "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."

1 Or in 2 Greek sufficient 3 Greek into 4 Some ancient authorities add to him 5 Greek torn open

6 Greek into 7 Greek as a dove 8 Or This is my son; my (or the) beloved in whom I am well pleased: 9 Some ancient authorities read: Thou art my beloved Son; today I have begotten thee.

HS references: Mt 3:17 and Mk 1:11 and Lk 3:22 = Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1 Mk 1:10 = Ezekiel 1:1

D Compare § 74 portion E

Section 20

ACTIVITY OF JOHN AND ITS RELATION TO JESUS

§20

§ 20 Withdrawal of Jesus to the Wilderness

MATT 4:1-11

A Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit ¹ into the wilderness to be ¹tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days ² and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry.

B And the tempter came and said to ³ him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, ⁴ "It is written,
'Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

C Then the devil took him to the holy ⁵ city, and set him on the ⁴pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you ⁶ are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,
'He will give his angels charge of you,'
and
'On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"
Jesus said to him, "Again it is ⁷ written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

D Again, the devil took him to a very ⁸ high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, ⁹ "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! for it is written,
'You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.'"

MARK 1:12-13

A The Spirit immediately drove him ¹² out into the wilderness. And he was ¹³ in the wilderness forty days, ¹tempted by Satan;

LUKE 4:1-13

A And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, ¹ returned from the Jordan, and was led ²by the Spirit for forty days in the ²wilderness, ¹tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, he was hungry.

B The devil said to him, "If you are ³ the Son of God, command this stone to become ³bread." And Jesus ⁴ answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

C Compare portion E below

D And the devil took him up, and ⁵ showed him all the kingdoms of ⁵the world in a moment of time, and said ⁶ to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will ⁷ worship me, it shall all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is ⁸ written,
'You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve.'"

1 Or tested 2 Or in 3 Or a loaf 4 Greek wing 5 Greek the inhabited earth

HS references: Mt 4:2 and Mk 1:13 and Lk 4:2 = Exodus 34:28 and I Kings 19:8 Mt 4:4 and Lk 4:4 = Deuteronomy 8:3
Mt 4:5 = Nehemiah 11:1 and Daniel 9:24 Mt 4:6 and Lk 4:10-11 = Psalm 91:11-12 Mt 4:7 and Lk 4:12 = Deuteronomy 6:16
Mt 4:10 and Lk 4:8 = Deuteronomy 6:13

the image of a loving husband urging his wife to return to him.)

7. Baptism. Repentance. Kingdom of heaven at hand. What would these words mean to you if you came to them from the Hebrew heritage as John the Baptist's hearers did? (The only baptism that John the Baptist's hearers would be familiar with is a general cleansing and purifying, plus the ritual washing required of converts to Judaism. Someone will probably bring up the Essenes; but that too was repeated cleansing and purifying.)
8. What is John the Baptist's message in §17 N Luke? (To refer to him always as John the Baptist avoids confusion with the disciple John). Is he asking them to change their situation or lifestyle? What is he asking them to do?
9. What can we learn purely from the text, using nothing else, about the meaning of the phrase "the Christ" in §17 O Luke? (that it is a title; that the Christ is expected.) If desired, look back at §4C, §10 CD, §11 BC for other meanings. (political king; savior; God's chosen successor to David as King.)
10. How does John the Baptist see the "coming one?" What does he expect? See §17 PQ. How closely is this "coming one" associated with "the Christ?"
11. How closely is this "coming one" associated with Jesus by name?

Questions for Sec. 18

SECTION 18 Records

(6 Parallels)

What are the differences among the texts? This question, which should precede your discussion of every section, is actually very simple and should take no more than a minute or two. The group simply notes, saving for discussion for later, where and how Matthew/Mark/Luke differ from one another. For instance, in this section, B is only in Matthew. ACD are in all three in Roman type, with small but significant differences in their wording which will be examined as the material is discussed.

Theme I: Jesus and his tradition

1. What does it tell us about Jesus that he came to John the Baptist for baptism?
2. What if anything does his coming to John the Baptist indicate as to his relation with his tradition? (Uncritical; rebellious; or what else?

Theme II: Baptism experience of Jesus

1. Who saw, according to Matthew? Mark? Luke? See CD.
2. Who heard, according to Matthew? Mark? Luke?
3. How would you describe this experience for Jesus? Inner; outer; or what?
4. What do you make of the images surrounding the experience: clouds opening, dove, voice?
5. What is the content of this experience for Jesus?
6. Is this an experience similar to any experiences that we have? If so, what kind or kinds?
7. How do we choose or find out what we are to do in life? (vocation)
8. What are the possible temptations connected with this opening and accepting kind of experience?
9. (You may want to do this first.) Going back to B, the part of the story that is only in Matthew, what happens between John the Baptist and Jesus? What does John the Baptist see in Jesus? (A superior being; the Christ; the mighty "coming one" of §17 P; or what?) How does Jesus respond to this high evaluation?
10. If there is time, as a wind-up and to show that §18 and §20 are basically halves of one experience, move over into §20, Mark only, asking why ("Straightway") this experience follows immediately after the experience in §18. What is the nature of this desert experience? What do these various images contribute: wilderness; Satan; forty days; wild beasts; angels?

SECTION 20 Records

The Temptations

What are the text differences?

(8 Parallels)

Theme I: The other half of the experience in §18

1. How closely is this connected with §18 according to Mark?
2. What is the nature of the experience outlined in Mark? Why is it