

Sermon Notes – September 18, 2016
“A Father Who is Well Pleased”
Matthew 3:11-17
Pastor Bill Hoffman

Based on this passage and also John chapter 1 and John 3:22-30, how does John see his relationship to Jesus?

In all four gospels, Jesus' baptism by John inaugurates his earthly ministry.

- Why is John reluctant to baptize Jesus?
- How do you understand Jesus' statement about why it was necessary that John baptize him?

What strikes you about what happens when Jesus is baptized and what is said about him? (Note the parallels with Jesus' Transfiguration in Matthew 17, and also the Old Testament roots of what is said of Jesus in Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1.)

In last week's message based on Matthew 28:16-20, it was emphasized that in baptism we publicly identify with the triune God. In Jesus' baptism, he is not only identified with the Father and the Holy Spirit but also with sinful human beings.

Spend some time reflecting on both the humbling and joyful implications of this for sinful people like ourselves. Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:21 might aid your meditation on this amazing reality.