



# Potomac Hills

## Presbyterian Church, PCA

By Grace Alone ~ Through Faith Alone ~ In Christ Alone

The Reverend Dr. David V. Silvernail, Jr.  
Matthew 3:13-17

January 6, 2013  
English Standard Version

### *“Baptizing the King”*

The 6<sup>th</sup> Sermon in a series on the Gospel of Matthew entitled  
*“The King and His Kingdom!”*

#### **Matthew 3:13-17**

*“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> 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; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*

*Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the Scriptures and making us Your people. You have brought us to this amazing Gospel to learn more about your Son, Jesus. This is a text of great joy, which leads to a text of great hardship. Jesus knew both sorrows and joys – just like us. He identifies with us completely ... in order that He might be able to save us completely. Help us to consider what it means to forget ourselves, and to remember Jesus. So by Your Spirit open this Gospel to us and help us to see Jesus, and, as always, for this we need Your grace. Give us the desire to learn from You this morning, in the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.*

## INTRODUCTION: *Who is the Greatest?*<sup>1</sup>

I was just wondering: what do you think of Richard Johnson? What's your estimation of the man? Was he good or bad? Was he incompetent or a genius? What's your opinion? And, as long as we're on the subject: what do you think of George Dallas, or Cabell Breckinridge, or Schuyler Colfax? I'm curious how you would rank William Wheeler, Levi Morton, Charles Fairbanks, Alben Barkley, James Sherman, Henry Wilson, Garret Hobart, and Elbridge Gerry. Those of you who are masters of trivia, or live in the hometown of one of these men might have an opinion. Still, I'm reasonably sure that most of you listening today are saying, "***Who? Never heard of any of them.***"

Now if all those names are nothing more than names to you, I'm not surprised. I hadn't heard of most of them either. No, I have to be honest; I had only heard of two of them. But I guess I should have heard of all of them. You might know who they were if I had used the names of their contemporaries — Dick Cheney and Joe Biden. You see, all of these men were Vice-Presidents of the United States. All of these men were a heart-beat away from the presidency; all of them were constitutionally next in line to be America's leader. In their day, these men were loved and hated; they were respected and reviled; they were revered and ridiculed. When they were out campaigning, kissing babies, pressing the flesh, people were proud to have met them; they bragged to their friends and relatives, "I shook hands with **the Vice-President of the United States ...**" and then they filled in the name of **the very-important man** that you and I have forgotten.

**Greatness** — If there's anything in the world which is here today and gone tomorrow it has to be **greatness**. Generals win their victories and heroes do deeds of great daring. They're welcomed home by the beating of drums and the fanfares of Fifth Avenue parades. Still, within a few years, the victor's battles and triumphs, the hero's guts and glory have been forgotten. Politicians and statesmen shape and shake the world ... but only for a passing moment. The click of the clock, the flip of the calendar, promise that pharaohs will be forgotten; the statesmanship and sacrifices of powerful princes, presidents, and prime-ministers will become dry, dusty dates in unopened history books. Movie stars, rock stars, television stars ... cannot escape being shooting stars. For a brief instant **they light up the lives** of their adoring fans and then they fall from the sky, disappearing from sight, unremembered and unrecalled.

Please understand, what I'm saying isn't meant to be a criticism of any age group. **Every generation forgets**. Which of you listening to me today, can give the first, middle, and last names of all four of your own grandparents?

What I'm saying is this: it's our nature to long for the world's praise, applause, and approval; to hope that our lives will be remembered, recalled, and respected; but it is the world's nature to forget and fade all human accomplishments, to wilt and wither our legacies.

**Greatness**: it's an elusive thing. People argue about who was **the greatest** president or prime minister; what was **the greatest** movie; **the greatest** song; or **the greatest** sportsman. They want to know which is **the greatest** restaurant, **the greatest** car, **the greatest** deodorant, and **the greatest** gift to give for Valentine's Day. There's more than one catalogue whose sole appeal is that it only offers **the greatest** products that money can buy. So, please, don't be surprised when I ask, "Who do you think is **the greatest person** who has ever lived?"

Dale Earnhardt might be the name of those who follow NASCAR, while Willie Mays

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**1 The Introduction is adapted from the sermon "You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet"** by Rev. Ken Klaus, Lutheran Hour Ministries, 1/8/06, [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

could be the name submitted by baseball fans. Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Caesar might be the suggestions of those who are military-history buffs. Art aficionados (and fans of the Teen-Age Mutant Ninja Turtles) might list Leonardo, Michelangelo, Donatello, and Raphael.

Giving an answer to the question, “**Who is the greatest?**” would see music fans locked in a life-and-death, take-no-prisoners struggle as each group fights for the supremacy of their own particular balladeer. Who's the greatest? Is Mohammed Ali really the greatest, or would Rocky Marciano or Joe Louis have done him in? Who is the greatest? It seems to be an impossible question. Before a person gives an answer he has to ask, “**Greatest at what?**” And then, after he's given his answer, he has to be prepared to protect his nominee against a great many people are equally sure although they hold completely different opinions.

So, can the question, “Who is the greatest?” ever really, truly be answered? It would be a foolish thing for me to bring you this far in the message if I didn't have an answer. So of course, I do ... **The greatest man in the history of the world was ...** (May I have a drum roll please) ... **John the Baptist**.

Disappointed? Some are. But John was the greatest. Before he was born, a prophesying angel said about him, **Luke 1:14-15**, “*And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*”

To be “*great before the Lord,*” or as some versions translate it, “*great in the sight of the Lord*” is no small recommendation. But the claim for John being “**the greatest**” doesn't stop with the words of an angel. The angel's promise is certified **by Jesus Himself**. In the Gospel of Matthew the Lord says, **Matthew 11:11**, “*Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.*” There you have it. Jesus says John is, without question, the greatest person who has ever lived.

Years ago when I first read Jesus' words, I wondered, “What? Why? Why is **John** the greatest?” Maybe you're thinking the same thing. I mean, after all, he wasn't the father of nations like **Abraham**; he didn't separate the Red Sea like **Moses**; he didn't escape the lion's den like **Daniel**; he didn't call down fire upon a sacrifice like **Elijah**; he didn't manage to avoid being roasted like **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**. I mean, exactly what did **John** do to earn the title “the greatest?” He didn't write psalms like **King David**; he didn't build a temple like **Solomon**. What did he do that was so great? I mean if I want to be like John, and great in God's eyes, what should I copy? It's a hard question. Hard, because when the Bible speaks of John, it gets pretty stingy with details and sparing with verses.

John can't be called **the greatest** because of his eccentric looks, odd eating habits, or strange clothing. Go downtown in any major city and you will find a bunch of people who would beat him hands down. While John's message was convicting as the Lord communicated the need for repentance before the Christ would come, John wasn't **the greatest** because he always said things which people found appealing. While all of us definitely need to hear God's call to repentance, sermons which say, “*You're a sinner and are headed for hell*” are usually not very popular. Nor could John be called **the greatest** merely because he was a prophet. True, he did foretell the coming of the Christ, the Savior of the world, but there were others in the Old Testament whose ministry lasted longer and whose words, giving guidance to those in the far-off future, were equally direct.

“So, Pastor,” I can almost hear you asking, “I've stayed with you this long, what's the answer? **Why WAS John the greatest?**” Now before I give you my reply, I have to tell you

that there are many scholars, wiser than myself, who will disagree with me. Still, I've spent some time thinking about this, and I think John is called the greatest because **He Never Forgot Who He Was**. Just as importantly **He Always Remembered Who Jesus Was**.

Would you like that one more time? **John Never Forgot Who He Was; and He Always Remembered Who Jesus Was**. Read through Scripture, study history or the people all around you. How many can say they **never** forgot who they are, and **always** remember who Jesus is? And that is most clear in Matthew, chapter 3, our passage for today, and the character of John ... the greatness of John ... comes through loud and clear at the...

#### **v. 13-15: THE BAPTISM OF THE KING<sup>2</sup>**

*“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.”*

For starters, may we all stand side-by-side with John who never forgot that he was a sinner in need of a Savior. Sure of his sins and shortcomings, when Jesus appeared at the Jordan and asked John to baptize Him, John **honestly**, and with great **humility** replied, ***“I need to be baptized by You.”***

Truer words have never been spoken. John may have been the greatest man who ever lived, but that day God's prophet stood before God's Son; God's spokesman looked upon the world's Savior. That day, at the Jordan, John knew he was in the presence of the Christ, true man, born of a virgin, and true God, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. John knew He was looking into the face of God's Son, who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, had called the universe into being with a word; who had reached out to fallen man with the promise of salvation; and who, even though it meant He would face **unjust** accusations, **unfair** punishments, and an **unearned** death, was fulfilling that plan of redemption which would buy humanity back from sin, death, and Satan.

John protests the prospect of baptizing Jesus for three reasons. **First**, John is a **lesser** person. How can he, the **lesser**, baptize Jesus, the **greater**? **Second**, he offers a **lesser** baptism. John offers water, the symbol of purification, but Jesus offers the Holy Spirit, who indwells believers and empowers them to break with sin. **Third**, Jesus has no need of water baptism. John preaches a baptism of repentance, but Jesus hasn't sinned and therefore doesn't need to repent. Why should John give Jesus a baptism He doesn't need?

And so Jesus replies, verse 15, *“Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”* He's telling John that His ministry is not yet at hand. It's still John's hour. In three years Jesus will complete His ministry and institute His baptism, but first He must teach, heal, suffer, die, and rise again. Then He will charge His apostles to baptize, saying, **Matthew 28:19-20**, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”*

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**2 The Exposition of the text is adapted from the books, “The Reformed Expository Commentary: Matthew, Volume 1” by Dr. Dan Doriani, pages 58-69, “The Gospel of Matthew: God With Us” by Rev. Matt Woodley, Resonate Commentary Series, pages 44-45; And the Sermons, “Jesus' Baptism: To Fulfill All Righteousness” by Dr. J. Ligon Duncan, First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MS, 2/9/97, [www.fpcjackson.org](http://www.fpcjackson.org); “The Baptism of Jesus” by Dr. Robert Rayburn, Faith Presbyterian Church, Tacoma, WA, 10/12/03, [www.faithtacoma.org](http://www.faithtacoma.org).**

Meanwhile, “*to fulfill all righteousness,*” John must baptize Jesus. Jesus knows His baptism is the Father’s will. By being baptized, Jesus **identifies** with His people in their sin. The nation of Israel, the people of God, need to repent, and Jesus is part of that nation, part of that people, so Jesus comes to be baptized with them. He doesn’t separate Himself from them.

Also, Jesus’ baptism was an **affirmation** of John’s ministry. By being baptized it was as if Jesus was saying, John I want you to baptize Me, because that will show that **your message** was true, **your ministry** was true, and it will link Me with **your ministry**, which was to pronounce the coming of the Messiah. So that’s the first thing that His baptism does to fulfill all righteousness.

It also serves to **relieve** John’s doubts. We know from **John 1:31**, that John himself had been unsure about the identity of the Messiah up until this time. In fact, we’re told elsewhere in the Gospels that John had his doubts later on. Jesus didn’t turn out to be quite who he was expecting, and he had to ask the Lord on at least one occasion, “*Are You the one, or is there another?*” This baptism was the Lord Jesus’ gift to John to assure him, “Yes I’m the One. John, remember you baptized Me. Remember I’m the one that you were preaching about.”

This baptism also serves to **confirm** the message of John. It symbolizes the Lord Jesus’ **identification** with His people and their plight. It is as if Jesus is saying, “Yes, John’s message is true. You **are** sinners; you **do** need redemption. And My baptism is the sign that I’m **identifying** with you.”

It is also a sign that the Lord Jesus is the Messiah. He’s publicly showing that He’s the Messiah who comes to take away the sins of the world. And that’s why He enters into baptism even though He’s sinless ... for He’s the Messiah who comes to forgive the sin of His people.

This is the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. John’s ministry is in full swing. But **the first public action of our Lord is to humble Himself**. Our Lord was humble and He calls us to the way of humility ... while the world tells us that we ought to act otherwise. But the Lord Jesus’ action reminds us of the importance of humility. It was **required** for His obedience on our behalf. And He says to His disciples, that all those who follow after Him, must learn to humble themselves and serve others.

Students, in your schools, in your neighborhoods, among your peers, it’s very likely that the most popular kids will be those who are attractive, filled with personality, somewhat prideful, somewhat able to push themselves forward. They may be boys who are arrogant, talented, but perhaps mean-spirited. They may be girls, who may be beautiful and yet they’re arrogant and look down on others that aren’t part of their circles. And you may be tempted to think that the only way that you can measure up is to **copy** that sort of behavior. The Lord Jesus says ... the way of glory **is the way of humility**.

But the story of Jesus’ baptism doesn’t end there, a couple of amazing things happen next, and they are equally filled with meaning. And the first amazing thing we see is ...

#### **v. 16: THE ANOINTING OF THE KING**

*“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;”*

The baptism also serves, and this is clear from verse 16, that God has **anointed** and **appointed** and **equipped** Christ for ministry. The baptism is **a sign** of God’s **approval** of the Lord Jesus. It’s **a sign** that God has **chosen** the Lord Jesus to be the Messiah on the behalf of His people. And so the baptism fulfills all righteousness because it’s **a sign** that Christ Himself

is willing to take on the role as **our Mediator**. He is willing to be **our Redeemer**. In the baptism, the Lord steps down. He enters humbly and receives the baptism. He acknowledges, I will receive all the humiliation that is necessary to fulfill My work on behalf of My people. I will take any humiliation necessary in order to save My people from their sins. The baptism shows Jesus' willing acceptance of His Messianic role.

The Lord Jesus' baptism was an act that He performed on our behalf as the mediator of the covenant of grace. He didn't **need** the baptism of repentance. And He didn't **repent** on our behalf. But He did **identify** Himself with His people as the One who would be the sin bearer and the One whose baptism, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, would bring renovation of our hearts and lives.

So Jesus was baptized; afterward, He rose from the water, and heaven opened. John said Jesus would baptize with fire, for fire judges and purifies, and those are roles that Jesus will have. Yet the symbol at Jesus' baptism was a dove, a gentle, harmless bird, and yet Biblically, often used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

And so the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus to empower Him for ministry. We're immediately reminded that from now on there will be a constant emphasis in the Gospels, that to do His Father's will and to save the people His Father had given Him, and to make His Father known was the great purpose of His life.

And in all that He did, He did by the power and with the aid of the Holy Spirit. In the very next chapter we'll read that He went to His great temptation under **the leading of the Holy Spirit** and Luke tells us that He faced that temptation "*full of the Holy Spirit*," and adds that, immediately after, Jesus commenced His public preaching, returning to Galilee in "*the power of the Spirit*." Such remarks at the beginning of the Lord's public ministry indicate that from the beginning to the end of His great work, He was **supported** and **directed** by the Holy Spirit. The Scripture says that He performed His miracles by the power of the Spirit, and so He taught, and so He preached, and so He lived by the power of the Holy Spirit ... always seeking to do the will of the Father in Heaven.

And as we go through the Gospels, we'll read things like, **Luke 4:14, 18**, "*And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about Him went out through all the surrounding country. ... [and then we read Him saying] "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed."*

And then in **Luke 5:17**, "*On one of those days, as He was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Him to heal.*"

And finally we see, back now to Matthew 3, in verse 17, not only the Father's anointing of the Son, but the Father's identification of the Son. God tells us who the Lord Jesus is in this passage. He tells us from heaven, in verse 17, you see the view of the heavenly Father. You see what the Father thinks of the Son. And so the second amazing thing we see in this passage is ...

#### **v. 17: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE KING**

*"and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

This statement now completes the first phase of the revelation of the true identity of Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ. Matthew has already said that this Gospel is, **Matthew 1:1**, "*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*" He's Immanuel

and He will save His people from their sins. Now we know that He's the unique and beloved Son of God.

For two thousand years, for two millennia, for twenty centuries from the time of Abraham, we have been waiting to see the unveiling of the One who would be the deliverer of Israel. In **Isaiah 42:1**, we are told that the Father would say of Him, "*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.*"

And in **Psalm 2:7** we read, "*I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."* The heavens opened at the baptism of Jesus and the Father's voice is heard from heaven, and He says, "***This is My beloved Son.***" Two millennia of waiting were fulfilled. And the Father has said, this is Him, this is My SON, and we must remember this as we work through this Gospel, and we see the Lord Jesus despised and misunderstood and rejected and crucified and dead and buried. And when we see the world hating Him, or ignoring Him, or thinking that He's crazy, we must remember that **the Father** does not see Him that way. He is the beloved Son, and every time we see the world despise Him, we ought to remember that the Father loves Him.

Any parent in this room knows what it would be like to watch your child despised. And any parent in this room knows what it is to love that child with all your heart ... even if he or she is rejected by their contemporaries. And **every time** we see the Lord Jesus despised by men, we ought to remember what the Father has said of Him, "***This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.***"

But, in any case, the aftermath of His baptism clearly indicates another, if not the primary, purpose of it in the Lord's own life and in the history of our redemption. His baptism by John served as His **ordination** to His office as the Christ. It was His outward **coronation** as the Prince of Peace, the occasion of his official, public **installation** as the King of Kings.

Inaugurations can be very impressive events. But no presidential inauguration, no royal coronation in the history of human government, no matter how grand, has ever compared to that given the Lord Jesus Christ at the commencement of His ministry. The entire Trinity, one God in three persons, gathered at the Jordan that day! God the Father spoke aloud from heaven His love and approval of His Son. And the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. The general significance of these events is perfectly clear — Jesus is being **commissioned** by His Father and **equipped** by the Holy Spirit for the work which lies before Him.

And in this coronation and confirmation, God uses a strange man, John the Baptist. Strange, but great. His ministry was winding down; Jesus' ministry was starting up. John was just the man for the job.

**CONCLUSION: *Don't Forget Who You Are: You Are Sinners***<sup>3</sup>

At the beginning of this message I told you that **John never forgot who he was; and he always remembered who Jesus was.** Read through Scripture, study history or the people all around you. How many people can say they never forgot who they are, and always remember who Jesus is?

Look at Scripture ... Adam and Eve forgot. In their desire for greatness they tried to usurp God's authority and ate of the forbidden fruit. Abraham thought he could do a better job at providing an heir for himself than God could. Famous men, well known people like Moses,

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<sup>3</sup> Max Lucado story is taken from his book, "*Next Door Savior*", page 109.

Samson, David, Solomon, and others, a who's-who of famous names from Scripture, **forgot who they were.**

But John never did. He never forgot that his job was to prepare the way for the Savior's coming and to call people from their sins. Years ago, when the famous conductor, Leonard Bernstein, was asked, "What is the hardest instrument in the orchestra to play?" he said, "Second violin." Then he added, "I can get plenty of first violins, but to find someone who can play the second fiddle with enthusiasm — that's a problem. And if we have no second fiddle, we have no harmony." John knew, from the beginning his job was to be second fiddle to the Savior.

It was a job that John did with integrity. He didn't pretend he was an inconsequential nobody. Long ago the prophets had described and defined his role — he was to be the forerunner, God's appointed voice crying in the wilderness, **Isaiah 40:3**, "*A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*

John knew that he was fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies which said he would cultivate hearts for the forgiving grace which would be planted by the sacrificing Savior. Knowing who he was, John boldly told people to turn from their sins so they might beg the Lord for forgiveness.

By the Spirit's will, people came to hear what John had to say. They came from Jerusalem, from Judea, from all over. They wanted to hear John's message which was always the same: **Don't Forget Who You Are: You Are Sinners.** You have violated the Lord's commands in thought, word, and deed. If you're to be saved it will only be by the grace of God and through the sacrifice of the Son. Even the Scribes and Pharisees, people whom we would call respected and honored pillars of the community, were warned: Don't think, when you stand before God that you are superior, or that you're doing God a favor. You are **beggars, lepers, sinners.** **You need what the Savior offers:** forgiveness and faith, pardon and peace. John never forgot who he was. Like John, we need to remember **who we are**, and **who Jesus is.**

And who is Jesus? He is everything we're not.

My beard is gray and gettier grayer, and each week the Lord allows me to speak to you. I'm supposed to be wise, but I know I'm not. When my children and others ask me for advice, I don't have the answers. I can offer, at best, educated guesses. When people think or speak kindly of me, I know the sad sinner I really am inside. Do you know yourself well enough to say that?

Maybe you know who you are: helpless, hopeless, and harried; defeated, discouraged, and despairing. If you do, I pray you also know who Jesus is — the Lamb of God, who takes away your sins. I pray that you believe on Him who has the answers to your difficult questions; that you trust Him who gives the right advice when you reach life's unpredictable paths; that you lean upon Him who has sacrificed His all so that you might be forgiven. If you remember who Jesus is, I give thanks. But if, this day you don't know the Savior and the salvation He has won for you, if you have, for some personal reason, forgotten His love and forgiveness, I would like to help you remember.

Max Lucado tells a great story about shopping with his daughter while they were traveling. He writes, "Jesus did for us what I did for one of my daughters in a shop at New York's La Guardia Airport. The sign above the ceramic pieces read Do Not Touch. But the wanting was stronger than the warning, and she touched. And it fell. By the time I looked up, ten-year-old Sara was holding the two pieces of a New York City skyline. Next to her was an unhappy store manager. Over them both was the written rule. Between them hung a nervous

silence. She had no money. He had no mercy. So I did what dads do. I stepped in. “How much do *we* owe you?” I asked. How was it that I owed anything? Simple. She was my daughter. And since she couldn’t pay, I did.

Since you and I cannot pay, Christ did. We’ve broken so much more than souvenirs. We’ve broken commandments, promises, and, worst of all, we’ve broken God’s heart. But Christ sees our plight. With the law on the wall and shattered commandments on the floor, he steps near (like a neighbor) and offers a gift (like a Savior).

What do we owe? We owe God a perfect life. Perfect obedience to every command ... the commands of humility, honesty, integrity. We can’t deliver. But Christ can and he did. His plunge into the Jordan is a picture of His plunge into our sin. His baptism announces, “Let me pay.”

To come near to Jesus is to come near to a perfect love and a perfect power to restore all things. Jesus will take all the broken things in your life — and restore them. All your sad stories will come untrue.

Don't Forget Who You Are — You Are Sinners.

But Remember Who He is — He’s Your Savior. And He’s your King.

Think about that ... You need to pray.

Take a moment to do that, and then I’ll close.

*Our Lord and our God, thank You that You have given us a King. In this passage, we see Your Son. Open our eyes that we might see our sin and then see our Savior. We see Him as You want us to see Him, as humble, as obedient, as glorious, as beloved by You. Equipped by the Spirit by measure to do ministry to do battle with Satan and with His kingdom on our behalf. But we know in the end that in the gates of hell will not prevail against Your Son’s Kingdom. And we will safely be within its walls. And we know that we can only be there by faith. And so, O Lord, if there is anyone among us this day, who comes here not trusting in Christ, we would ask that by Your Spirit that You would draw that person to Yourself — by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone — that they might embrace the beloved Son. Help us to know and believe that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever. Amen.*

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### **Colossians 1:10, 13-14**

*[So now] “... walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ... [who] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*