

# Jesus is baptized and sealed



Matthew 3 : 13-17 / John 6 : 27

*John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Messiah when Jesus asked John to baptize him. Reluctantly, and only on Jesus' insistence, he baptized him in the waters of the Jordan. At this moment God acknowledged his Son. His Spirit visibly descended on him in the form of a dove and God said: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

The children see how God acknowledged his Son; he baptized his Son with the Holy Spirit.  
We have also been sealed with this Spirit, and, therefore, become children of God.

**B**en comes down to the Jordan as often as possible to speak and to listen to John. For John the outward appearance of a person is unimportant. He seems to be able to look into the very heart of a person and see what is hidden there. These inner feelings are important to him. Ben likes this, it pleases him. He lets himself be baptized. The two men have become good friends. They often speak about the Redeemer. How shall one know him? Although John does not know how it will happen exactly, he is convinced that God will show him the right person.

Today has been a hot and tiring day. Many people have come to hear John preach and to be baptized by him. Untiringly he calls out: "Prepare yourselves! The time is at hand! Only those who change their lives shall be ready to receive the Redeemer!" Much to the relief of everyone, a gentle cooling breeze has sprung up and gradually it also becomes more quiet. Suddenly a young man steps up to the listeners. The people around him do not really take any notice of him. John, however, immediately feels drawn to him. It is Jesus of Nazareth. He is a few months younger than John, and John's mother, Elizabeth, had often spoken of Jesus' birth. But that is not what fascinates John about Jesus. In recent times he has observed many people. How different they all are! But no one was like Jesus. John looks at him

with awe. He feels that he is the Redeemer. He is therefore very surprised when Jesus asks to be baptized by him. John rejects this suggestion firmly. He says: "How can you expect me to do that? I cannot baptize you! You do not have to change your life! You do no wrong. You should baptize me!"

But Jesus answers: "You must do so. Each one has his own task to fulfil. You baptize the people with water. That is why I ask you again, baptize me too." There is nothing further John can say. So they go down to the river together. John is upset; he feels he is doing something wrong. They walk into the water up to their waist and as he has baptized all repentant people, so John now also baptizes the Lord Jesus.

1

Now something quite wonderful happens:  
The heavens open and God baptizes the Lord Jesus with the Holy Spirit. A voice from heaven says: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

All gathered there hold their breath. It becomes very quiet. Then the special moment is past. The Lord Jesus takes his leave of John.

2/3

## Jesus Christ is the Son of God



*John baptized the Lord Jesus. God acknowledged Jesus. God said: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

- 1 We explain the significance of the events. The Holy Spirit is portrayed here in the form of a white dove. God himself baptizes his Son with his Spirit. He gives him the necessary strength and power for his human life. In this way, the Lord Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit.**
- 2 John is impressed. The children take on his role and tell Ben what has happened.**
- 3 We have received the Holy Spirit too. How did that happen in our case? (An apostle sealed us with the Holy Spirit. Through this act we have become children of God. We have received a new life within us.)**
- 4 The children could make a drawing to the words of the hymn.**