

This Is My Son

Reintroduction

- Jewishness of Jesus, Jewishness of Matthew's Gospel.

The Wonder Years

- Began learning to read and memorize the Torah and much of OT by five or six. After 10 he would have begun learning the Oral Torah, the rabbinic traditions handed down for interpreting Written Torah.
- Girls weren't required to have formal training, would have frequently heard the scriptures recited, expected to know many prayers by heart at home and Synagogue.
- At 13 most boys would conclude formal training and begin learning a trade. Talented students would be encouraged to continue study at bet midrash (house of interpretation, high school) at Synagogue until they married at 18-20. Adults would do general study as long as they wanted. Only brilliant students would go on to be disciples of a great rabbi.
- The Synagogue was the center of Jewish life.
 - Knowledge of the scriptures was wide spread. Ordinary people devoutly studied the Torah. Each Sabbath a member of the "church" would read from the scriptures and expound on the day's passage.
 - Gifted rabbi's like Jesus would be asked to speak when in town. Torah teaching and discussion was as common as talking about the weather or sports or the news. Integral and genuine part of their lives.
- Rabbis thought that study and not prayer was the highest form of worship.
 - When we pray we speak to God. When we study, God talks to us.
 - Study motivated by a deep reverence for God and His word.
- **Mood of the time** - continuing oppression of Rome, Jews cried out to God daily, begging for Messiah to deliver them. This is when JTB was preaching in the wilderness. This is when Jesus showed up.

Matthew 3

3:1-12

- **3:1-3** The message
 - Slides of land and baptism location
 - Who is JTB?
 - What a weird place to be preaching such a message! Go to Timber.
 - **repent?** Revealed, recognize, reverse, relationship restored.
 - **kingdom of heaven?** Kingdom of God, more respectful way to say. Kirk, "What the Devil?" What is it? A number of things. Jesus will explain more.
 - "Repair the way of the Lord." Fix the potholes of your life, brother!
- **3:4-6** The response
 - **3:4** Radical guy! Some people are wired this way. Last OT prophet.
 - **3:5** Why would they go there for that message?
 - Death, taxes, travel.
 - Recall **mood of the time**.

- **3:6**
 - Jews didn't get baptized. Cultural context of act. Born Jewish, or proselytize (circumcision). Might have been seen by some as abandoning God, just like after resurrection.
 - Baptism. Cloth dying, pickles. **Romans 6:3-11**.
 - **confessing** - verbally agreeing with, "fess up" The "recognize" in repent.
 - **This is repairing the way of the Lord**. Gospel.
- **3:7-10** The rebuke
 - Who are **Pharisees** and **Sadducees**?
 - Made up governing body, Sanhedrin.
 - **Pharisees came from working class, believed in angels, resurrection, supernatural. Held to both Written and Oral Torah.**
 - **Sadducees came from priestly and aristocratic classes, did not believe in angels, resurrection, supernatural. Only held to Written Torah.**
 - Loved the Torah, most of the lived religious lives, no relationship.
 - **brood of vipers** - sons of the Devil, the one who deceived with words. Jesus also called them this. Had the same conversation in **John 8**.
 - **who warned you** - Basically, who told you to come out here?
 - **wrath to come**
 - In case you hadn't noticed the world has not been so nice to God and Jesus. People cry out for justice, God acts, people criticize God of not being loving.
 - **It is God's love, grace, and patience that is keeping His well deserved wrath from being expressed. Romans 1:18+**. Walk through repent R's.
 - It's not like God is going to run out of Paxil one day and just snap.
 - Jesus is the life preserver, the boat is coming, alternative is drowning. The point of **John 3:16-17**.
 - **3:8** Repentance is demonstrated in action, not just words.
 - **3:9-10** No entitlement for anyone for any reason. Those living under sense of entitlement don't know that they are really on a path toward death.
- **3:11-12** At the time, John's baptism was for preparation, looking forward to. Now it's identification. Baptism in/with HS and fire.
 - Fire, purification, heat, light.
 - HS, **Acts 1:8**. Not meant to do this all on our own. God lives His light through us. **Gal. 2:20. Exchanged life.**

3:13-17

- **3:15** Jesus came to serve, to be obedient, to be an example. That's why he did this.
- A picture of the Trinity.
- **beloved son** - The Jewish mind would have gone to Genesis 22, Abraham and Isaac.
 - The sacrifice, the obedience, the righteousness.
 - Would have been in conflict, in tension with the expectation of Messiah to deliver from Roman oppression. Jesus would spend the rest of His time correcting that.
 - Want a voice from Heaven? You got one. Happened again with Peter.
- Jesus begins His ministry with, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- God is still speaking through the HS, "This is my beloved Son."
- Walk through Rs.