



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, May 21, 2023

The Holy Spirit

Dove

Matthew 3:11-17

Read/Reflect

1. Read each of the accounts of Jesus' baptism, and observe the differences. Why are there different details in each account, do you think?
 - Matthew 3:13-17;
 - Mark 1:9-12;
 - Luke 3:21-22;
 - John 1:32-34
2. Compare John's ministry (as described in Matthew 3:1-12) with Jesus' ministry as reported in the gospels. What characterizes each of them?

Explore

3. Popular opinion would suggest that people generally like "fire and brimstone" sermons. Why do you suppose that is?
4. What motivation was behind John the Baptist's objection to baptizing Jesus:
 - Humility for his role as mere prophet
 - Pride that his Saviour would come with power
 - Disappointment in Jesus appearing so undramatically
 - Eagerness to see judgment upon others
5. What does Jesus mean when he says his baptism is done "to fulfill all righteousness?"
6. Christ redeems and reconciles through his humble submission (see Philippians 2:5-11). When and where in your life are you called to reveal his redemption with that same "dove-like" Spirit (see Philippians 2:1,2)?
7. How or when have you heard an affirmation from God that you are his beloved child?

Pray

- Pray for an anointing of the Spirit that brings grace and peace into your life and into the lives of others.
- Pray a prayer of thanks for the Spirit of love, joy, and peace.

*For the Spirit of Peace that calms our mind and stills our life, we give you thanks.
For the Spirit of Love that touches hearts and reaches out, we give you thanks.
For the Spirit of Joy that lifts our soul and gives us faith we give you thanks.
For the Spirit of Power, that gift of grace for this your church, we give you thanks.*