

Jesus 3D Jesus' Baptism
John 1:29-34

Intro: We have a deep seated aversion to the ordinary

- Enamored with fame and celebrity
 - Magazines at the checkout stand, TV shows like cribs
 - The more outlandish, the more popular
- Movies - Mission impossible, Jason Bourne
- TV - Heroes, office
- "Christian" Books
 - Live your best life now
 - Think better, live better

Not captivated by the ordinary, yet the ordinary is where we live

So many in our culture want anything but ordinary

- Reality TV is so popular - chance of fame
 - American Idol
 - Dance, baking, tattoo...
- Most fail - went back to ordinary life
- Same kind of ordinary life Jesus was born into
 - Striking - God of the universe, born into flesh, ordinary life
 - Normal parents, ordinary town, ordinary job

Know nothing about the first 30 years of Jesus' life

- After birth, Bible is silent except for a brief excerpt at age 12

Until - Jesus' baptism

- Jesus lived a normal, ordinary life for 30 years
 - communicated with God
 - School, chores, work play - 30 years
- 1 day his life dramatically changed
- anonymous to famous- didn't win Israeli Idol

All started at an ordinary river

- John happened to be Jesus' cousin. Really liked the wilderness, but liked God even more
- Lived an odd life - locusts and wild honey; camel's hair clothes
- Really followed God - pointed to God

- Baptizing people in the Jordan River and was questioned
 - “There’s nothing special about me. Keep watching, someone truly special is still coming” - wait!
- We tend to forget this part - our timeline gets condensed and we skip over and jump ahead

OT-NT: 400 yrs - silence from God

David - Jesus: 1,000 yrs

Finally Jesus is born, God comes to live w/us - manger, nativity...nothing!
30 long yrs

Mary: thinks about the Angel’s words to her (Lk 1:32-33): “He will be great and will be called the son of the most high. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Joseph: thinks about the Angel’s words to him (Mt 1:21): “Call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.”

- Anticipation is building, Mary and Joseph didn’t know when
- Part of me wonders if they doubted - I would have
 - My son will be king? When?
 - Maybe they started to doubt?
- Lived a normal life for 30 years

Until this one day, when Jesus was out for a stroll - 70 miles from home. w/ God’s providence he stumbled upon his cousin John

John 1:29

- Shows Jesus’ purpose - echo of Mt 1:21 - save people from their sins
- Vs. 30
- Jn was 6 months older than Jesus - everything in that culture revolved around birth order
 - Jn would have culturally been granted more status because he was older
 - Echo of week 1 - Pre-incarnate Christ (always existed)

Vs. 31 - John’s purpose

- People were drawn to John because he was a little odd
 - Religious leaders inquired of him - Christ? Elijah? The prophet (Moses predicted)
 - No, my job is to reveal and point to Jesus

Our same job today - point to Jesus, reveal Jesus

- So much happens in our lives, in the lives of our friends and co-workers where we can point to Christ
- Faced w/the option - my fame or point to Christ?
- My benefit or Christ's?
- 2 friends talking about a famous pastor
 - "how many people has he saved? Led to the Lord? - None! Not about him, about Christ.
 - We don't save - God through Jesus, HS
 - We don't lead - God draws to Jesus, HS
- Our job is not to be the most famous church - make Jesus famous

Vs. 32-33 - Very significant

- In OT, the HS came on people to enable them to accomplish certain God-given tasks
- Isaiah predicted the Messiah would be full of the HS at all times (11:2, 61:1)

Luke gives a little more detail of this miraculous event - 3:21-22

- Trinity - unfathomable tenet that God exists in 1 essence 3 persons, 1 being, 3 persons
- Here, we see the 3 persons
 - Son baptized, Spirit descend, Father speak approval
 - Well pleased - isn't that what we all desire to hear from others, or at least someone?

As we seek our own fame, we often want the recognition

- What did Jesus do to make God pleased?

Lk 2:52 - Increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man

- Lived an anonymous life up to this point, pleased God
 - counter intuitive to us - those who are famous are the best
 - What about the mother who spends her days in dirty diapers? office worker who works w/spreadsheets all day? Mechanic covered in grease?

1 Cor. 10:31 - whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

That is the point to the Xian life - point to God. point to Jesus like John

- Jn could have easily claimed to be Elijah and had instant fame - point to Jesus, his younger cousin who lived an anonymous life for 30 years
 - After this event, his life changed - infamous to famous
 - still pointed to God - lived for the glory of God

Perfect life

- Voluntarily gave himself on the cross
- Died horrific death
- Rose 3 days later
- Bring us back into relationship with God
- Lived up to his name

We also believe in baptism

- Follow Jesus' example
- Identifying with Christ death and resurrection
 - Death to old way of life
 - Raised to walk in the newness of life (new creation 2 Cor. 5:17)
- Outward sign of cleansing reflecting inward repentance of sins
- Sign of committal and belonging to the Church
- Have you been baptized? Talk to your GC leader or Elder here

Communion - remember Christ's sacrifice

- Open to Xian
- Examine yourself