

The Gospel of Matthew

3:12-4:2

The Authentication of Jesus Christ



Vs. 12 – Threshing/separating the wheat gains from their husk/chaff..

It is the use of imagery indicating good followers and bad. Bad followers run the real risk of not being considered followers at all! It's not like people don't know. Its just that they hope against hope that it doesn't apply to them – but it does!



Vs. 13 - Jesus is reintroduced to the narrative. When John sees Jesus, immediately the Holy Spirit moves him to identify Jesus as the One John was born to identify – the Promised One *HAD ARRIVED!* [**Jn. 1:29**]

[**Lk. 1:17, 39-44**]



Vs. 14 – John – “*You want ME to baptize YOU?!*



No, I need to be baptized by YOU!”

John had the inside track on and what Jesus actually was. God had given him

knowledge of the divinity of Jesus. So what would be the point of baptism? Plus, John was overwhelmed and humbled being in the presence of such greatness!

Vs. 15 – *“It is proper to do this because it is always good to do the right thing.”*



The only way baptism for Jesus makes sense is if Jesus did this to be an example to his future followers. BTW- You can't skip over a disobedience to get beyond it to obedience in other things. It just doesn't happen or not well!

Vs. 15 – *“Then John consented”*

Jesus said He needed this done. John argued with Him briefly. Jesus convinced Him it was the right thing.

We don't know if John fully understood, but we know he complied.



Vs. 16 – *“At that moment heaven was opened...”*

Jesus descended into the water,
stood with John, and was baptized
when “all heaven” broke loose!!!
Heaven “opened” and the crowd
along the banks of the Jordan
River saw some strange and wonderful sights!



Vs. 17 – “*And a voice from heaven said...*”

In Matthew 1-3 The Evidence is Piling Up

-The angels / The genealogies / The
Old Testament prophets / God the Father
and the Holy Spirit have all testified and
have authenticated Jesus as the Chosen
One of God



“This is my beloved Son. I am so pleased with Him”

Jesus is the One! He really is! He is God become man! He is “the Word” and now “the Son”! He is God on a mission to redeem rebels and turn them to His side! He is the living leader of a great movement! Are you a part of it?! Go! Tell! Gather! Do the right thing!



4:1 – After His authentication by John and by God the Father, Jesus was “tempted” soon afterward. Temptation is always a test! Think of the self-discipline it would take to endure the pain of depriving yourself of food for 5 ½ weeks.?



The number forty had precedent in the Old Testament.
Israel wandered in the desert 40 years .
Moses was on Mount Sinai for
40 days and nights [**Ex. 34:28**]!
Elijah walked 40 days in the desert.
Jonah preached 40 days to Nineveh.



This extended fast showed an absolute mastery of Jesus over His humanity. Was this a trial run for the self-discipline required for the tortures of the cross?!

