

Jesus is humble!

Day 9: Jesus showed respect and honor to John the Baptist.

Reading: Matthew 3:1- 17 (NKJV)

v.15 "Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

The life of baby Jesus who was born in the manger was protected as His earthly parents, Joseph and Mary, obeyed the leading of God through the angel. (Matthew 2:13-23) From Bethlehem to Egypt and then back to Israel, Joseph and Mary brought up the baby Jesus. And Jesus grew up in Nazareth in the region of Galilee. V.23 "And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He was called a Nazarene".

As Jesus grew up as a young man, his cousin John also grew up as a man of God.

Matthew 3:1 "In those days, John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

John lived a pure life, fully dedicated to the Lord as his parents were instructed by God. "Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey."

John may have looked different in physical appearance compared to the people of his generation and culture, yet many respected his message. Many people from Jerusalem, Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him. (v.5)

Jesus, too, was aware of the ministry of John and respected him for his message. "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him." V.13

John was surprised to see Jesus coming to him. John's message was primarily to call sinners to repent and return to God. So, John tried to prevent Jesus and said,

"I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

But Jesus answered, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness". Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'" (v.15-17)

Jesus showed humility and respect for John by allowing John to baptize Him. Even though Jesus was fully God, and did not need to repent of sins because He was sinless, He still submitted Himself to the baptism of John to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus was still fully human when He was on earth. Thus, He wanted to set an example for those who make a commitment to turn away from sin and follow God fully.

Jesus also honored the ministry of John by allowing Himself to be baptized by John, showing submission and humility. Thus, the Heavenly Father affirmed His love and pleasure for His Son Jesus.

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!”

Reflection:

Jesus my Lord showed humility and submission by allowing John to baptize Him. As His follower, I too would like to be humble and submit to the servants of God.

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for your humility and respect for the ministry of John. Help me also to be humble and show respect to the ministry of Your servants.

Your Thoughts:

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Your Prayer:

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