

Title: THE SPIRIT AND THE VOICE, MARK 1:9 – 11  
(Chatham, NJ; 1/7/18, AM) [D – Topical]

Theme: Jesus' baptism was one of the important examples the church used in order to reflect and consider the significance of what could seem like a minor institution.

Purpose: To describe the role of the Spirit and the Voice of God to point out the importance and divine sanction of baptism.

## Introduction:

1. The story of Christ's life jumps quickly from his birth, dedication at the temple, and early childhood to his appearance as a candidate for baptism.
2. John had already begun to prepare people for his arrival.
3. Mark does not relate any of the details about John's interaction with Jesus, but he notes three features that suggest divine intervention and approval: the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and the voice from heaven spoke.
4. The church would later remember and reflect on this occasion.

## Signs of Jesus' Anointing, Mark 1:9 - 11

- A. The heavens opened
  1. Don't know what it looked like
  2. In Luke 2 the heavens opened to reveal a choir of angels
  3. In Revelation 4:1 John just sees a door
  4. Here it is an expression suggesting divine visitation
  5. An indication that God has intervened
- B. The Spirit descended
  1. Genesis 1:2, the Spirit of God animated the created order
  2. When God created man, he breathed into him the breath (spirit) of life
  3. His presence represented God's activity
  4. Isaiah 11:2; 42:1; 61:1-4, the Spirit was with the anointed one
  5. There can be no mistaking the importance of the Spirit at Jesus' baptism
- C. The voice from heaven
  1. By simply speaking, God brought the world into existence, Genesis 1
  2. Psalm 29 extols the power of God's voice
  3. If you had missed the first two signs of God, you can't miss this one
  4. Several other times God voiced his approval and anointing
  5. Jesus is the one from God

## The Church's Interpretation of the Event

- A. Jesus' baptism legitimized his anointing
  1. He was that John said would follow him
  2. He would be the one to baptize with the Holy Spirit
  3. Along with the miracles, his resurrection, these three signs told the disciples that Jesus was the Christ
- B. His baptism created an imperative for the disciples
  1. Jesus was baptized, though he didn't need it, "to fulfill all righteousness"
  2. And to provide an example to follow
  3. Not surprisingly Jesus includes it in the Great Commission, Mt. 28:18-20
- C. It became an initiation into the new age and the new life

1. John 3, you must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the Kingdom
2. Gal. 3:26-29, by faith and baptism, we become offspring of Abraham
3. Paul (Acts 9:18) and Cornelius (Acts 10:47-48) receive their initiation in this way

## **The Church's Theological Meaning of Baptism**

- A. A washing from sin
  1. Acts 2:38 for the remission of sins and reception of the Spirit
  2. Acts 22:16, Ananias describes it as a washing from sin to Paul
  3. 1 Peter 3:21 – an appeal to God for a clean conscience
- B. Identification with the death of Christ
  1. Not continue to sin, 6:1
  2. Romans 6:3, baptized into Christ's death
  3. Old self is crucified with him, 6
  4. Let not sin reign over you, 12
- C. Walk the resurrected life
  1. Raised with him in his resurrection, Rom. 6:4-5
  2. Thus we are called to seek those things that are above, Colossians 3:1
  3. Put to death the sinful ways, cloth yourselves with the ways of the Spirit, 5-13

## **Conclusions:**

1. Baptism is more than cleansing of the body.
2. It is also not just a formality.
3. It is a rite sanctioned by God to unite us with the blood of Christ by our faith and by the activity of the Holy Spirit.
4. It is also not just the final chapter in your spiritual journey but rather the beginning.
5. Won't you submit to it today? Join us as we seek to found our way to the heavenly city.