

“An Unexpected Surprise” Matthew 3:13-17

BAPTISM OF JESUS

INTRO: *The surprise message on a gravestone*

I. ONE DAY JOHN THE BAPTIST REALLY GOT A SURPRISE

- A. Jesus came to John to be baptized (verses 13-14)

- B. What is going on here?? (verse 15)

- C. How does Jesus' baptism *fulfill all righteousness* (v.15)?!
 - 1. A fulfillment of the children of Israel going through the river Jordan to the promised land
 - 2. A fulfillment of God's Law as the perfect sacrifice for sin
 - 3. Fully identifying with unrighteous sinners to bring us God's righteousness: **“the Great Exchange”** (2 Cor. 5:21)

II. THERE'S EVEN MORE TO THIS SURPRISE

- A. Note the first recorded words of Jesus since He was 12 years old in the Temple (v.15)

- B. These words set the tone and announce the theme for all Jesus was & came to do as His earthly ministry began
 - *Words of advice to new pastors beginning their ministry*

- C. The surprise of Jesus' baptism declares one central truth: He came to bear and forgive the sin of the world (Isaiah 53)
 - 1. John said to Jesus: *I need to be baptized by You*
 - 2. Jesus said to John: *It is God's plan that I am joined to all sinners in this baptism to begin the work finished at the cross*
 - 3. John tells us why *it is fitting* (John 1:29 - **Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world**)

CONCLUSION: *He took our lickin' for us*