

What A Surprise! (Matthew 3:13-17)

Introduction: *We all enjoy a surprise...or do we?*

- I. ONE DAY JOHN THE BAPTIZER REALLY GOT A SURPRISE
 - A. Jesus came to him to be baptized (verses 13-14)
 - B. What is going on here? (v. 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 give us God's righteousness (2 Cor.5:21)

- II. THERE'S EVEN MORE TO THIS SURPRISE OF JESUS' BAPTISM
 - A. Here are Jesus' 1st recorded words since He was 12 years old in the Temple (v.15)
 - B. These words announce the theme for all Jesus was & came to do
 - C. The surprise of Jesus' baptism declares one key truth: He came to bear & forgive the sin of the world (Isaiah 53:6)
 1. John the baptizer 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 Jesus' baptism is *fitting to fulfill all righteousness* (John 1:29)

Conclusion: *A 'salvation surprise' on the banks of the Genesee River*