

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE**

### **JESUS REMOVED YOUR SINS BY TAKING THEM AS HIS OWN**

Luke 3:21-22 “Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Have you wondered why Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist? After all, John’s baptism was “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” (Mark 1:5) Countless Bible passages say that Jesus was sinless. Why then did Jesus insist John the Baptist had to baptize Him?

Why was Jesus baptized by John the Baptist? “For (your) sake He (God) made Him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him (you) might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21) The Angel Gabriel told Joseph that God was sending Jesus into the world to “save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

John wrote in 1 John 3:5 that Jesus had no sin. That would mean there was no reason for Him to receive John the Baptist’s baptism. But Jesus insisted He needed to be baptized. “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” (1 John 3:8) Jesus’ baptism marked the beginning of His public ministry that would culminate in His trial before Pilate; Pilate sentencing Him to death by crucifixion, and His death on Calvary’s cross in payment for the sins of the world.

Jesus’ baptism was much like an inauguration. Luke wrote, “. . .the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’” This was God’s public testimony where God announced to the world that Jesus was His Son. This was God’s pronouncement that the Promised Messiah of the Old Testament was now on earth to carry out His promised saving work.

Although these words of God were uttered over 2,000 years ago to an audience that is long gone, His words are also for you to give you certainty that Jesus came into the world to take your sins upon Himself to sacrifice Himself in payment of

them. Although “He committed no sin. . .He himself bore (your) sins in His body on the cross, so that (you) might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by his wounds you have been healed.’” (1 Peter 2:22,24)

Prayer: Thank you Heavenly Father for making Jesus sin, even though He had no sin, so that I might become righteous in Your sight. Amen.

Since our great High Priest, Christ Jesus, Bears the name above all names,  
Reigning Son of God surpassing Other titles, pow’rs and claims—  
Since to heav’n our Lord has passed, Let us hold our witness fast!

Since we have a priest who suffered, Knowing weakness, tears, and pain,  
Who like us was tried and tempted, Unlike us, without a stain—  
Since He shared our lowly place, Let us boldly seek His grace.

Sacrifice and suff’ring over, Now He sits at God’s right hand,  
Crowned with praise, no more an outcast, His preeminence long-planned.  
Such a great High Priest we have, Strong to help, supreme to save.

Love’s example, hope’s attraction, Faith’s beginning and its end,  
Pioneer of our salvation, Mighty advocate and friend;  
Jesus, high in glory raised, Our ascended Lord be praised!  
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