

Jesus Speaking to Desire

Worth and Honor – Mt 3:13-15

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”

What did it do for John when Jesus used the word ‘us?’ John’s perspective was, ‘You are the Messiah! I am not worthy to baptize you;’ but Jesus lifts him up by saying, ‘it is fitting for **us** to do this together. Jesus speaks **worth** to John’s heart, makes him a peer, and says their joint act will ‘fulfill ALL righteousness.’

John the Baptist had a destiny to be the forerunner of the messiah, and had an authority to function that went with that role. When he meets Jesus, John offers to lay down that ministry and authority and give it to Jesus, asking Jesus to baptize him. But instead of taking over John’s role and authority, Jesus **honors** John’s ministry by coming under it. He submits to John within his sphere of influence, lets John choose (‘permit it at this time’) how things will be done, and honors him as a partner in the ministry instead of an underling. Where he could have asserted his position and authority, Jesus instead empowers John to fulfill his destiny. It is fitting in John’s role that Jesus be baptized and not vice versa.

1. *Jesus honors and elevates John immensely with the word “us”—saying that his mission and John’s is a shared one among peers. Let Jesus say that last line to you: “it is fitting for **us** to fulfill all righteousness.” You and Jesus are co-workers in a world-changing task. Let yourself soak in that. Then say, “Jesus, here’s how it impacts me when you say, “us”...*
2. *“Jesus, you do something here that blows up my picture of who you are—you yourself submitted to John’s ministry and his authority in it. What do you want to show me about who you are through this?”*
3. *“There is a deep desire in me to be significant: to be part of something larger that makes a difference in the world. What do you appreciate about my part in your larger mission?”*
4. *“Jesus, does the thing that happened between you and John also happen between you and me—that you give me an authority for a certain mission that you yourself submit to?”*

Approval, Recognition - (Luke 3:22 NASB, also Mt 3:17, Mk 1:11,)

“You are my beloved son, in you I am well-pleased.”

At the first act of Jesus ministry, as he formally embraces his call, Father speaks approval to his son Jesus. Jesus receives this great affirmation when he hasn't done anything yet in ministry. By now, he has toiled for over a decade in obscurity, rarely leaving his little backwater village. He's run the family business, building houses and fixing tools and furniture, working with his hands to support his widowed mother. That's all. Before he enters his call, before he's famous, before he teaches a word or does anything world-changing, Father's heart overflows with love and approval for him.

Interestingly, Matthew quotes what those standing nearby heard (“This is my beloved son...”), while Mark and Luke relate what the Father said directly to Jesus (“You are my beloved son...”). Jesus receives a personal word of affirmation from the Father, and at the same time is affirmed publicly in who he is.

At this point of Jesus' life, only two people in the whole world know who he really is—and one he just met. He has lived for nearly 20 years knowing that no one really knows him. The one relationship where he is really himself is with Father; and that aloneness in the world pulls them tightly together. But on this day, Jesus puts on his destiny and is finally known for who he really is: by his Father, by the prophet John and by the crowd.

1. *Let Jesus say to you: ‘You are my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.’ Soak in it. Let those words sink into your heart.*
2. *“Jesus, how am I a son to you? What do you love about me as a son?”*
3. *“Jesus, what was it like for you to have no one know who you were for so long? How did you deal with that?”*
4. *“Who do you see me as that nobody else knows?”*
5. *“How have I operated like a son this week? What does that do for you when I operate that way?”*

Significance

“As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.”

Jesus’ invitation comes to men trapped in the daily grind, laboring in the dangerous, grueling occupation of fishing. They were businessmen who owned their boats, sold their own product and often traveled to market it. They spoke multiple languages and saw more of the world than most, but their opportunities were constricted in ways we can hardly fathom. They would be fishermen like their fathers, for all their lives, working in one small town with their daily lives dictated by the weather and the seasons.

Then Jesus detonates their world with a call to a **significant** life. That they left everything there on the beach and never came back speaks (possibly) to their dissatisfaction with their lot in life. But now, instead of catching fish, they would catch people. Instead of fighting the waves to put food on the table, they would have high calling and work for an eternal purpose. Men who inherited a family trade in a society with no opportunity for advancement were suddenly given a chance for more. This was a call to a high D on the DISC (Peter) to do something worthy of his energy and abilities—hitting the D’s desire for **challenge** and **significance**—and Peter jumped at the chance.

1. *“Jesus, what did you experience when you saw Peter and Andrew on the beach and called out to them? Were you smiling when you saw who they really were in their destiny and called them to embrace it?”*
2. *“These guys became some of your closest friends. What did you see in them that caused you to invite them into your inner circle? What do you see in me that led you to give me that same invitation?”*
3. *“You called these guys in a way that validated their life experience, and gave even the drudgery of everyday tasks significance. What they knew was fishing, and you called them to be fishers of men. That’s amazing! Everything they’d ever learned you put to use. What in my past have I discarded as unspiritual or commonplace that you are actually building my destiny on?”*
4. *What was going on in your heart when they jumped up, left their work and ran after you?”*