



After Jesus was baptised the Holy Spirit descended and a voice from Heaven declared Jesus to be the Son of God and yet there were people there who still thought that he was merely the son of Joseph. People were with Jesus but they were missing God. This passage is about a very important thing to get right. It is about who Jesus is. Luke makes it clear that many people had a view of Jesus that was too low and I know that we have the same problem today. Our view of Jesus dictates how we respond to Jesus. We must be able to see both his humanity and his deity and worship him as we should.

Jesus is human. First we see that he was baptised. (v21) John, in preparation for the coming of the Messiah was preaching the baptism of repentance and the producing of fruit in keeping with repentance. So, we ask ourselves why Jesus, who never sinned on purpose or by accident, needed to be baptised. Repentance is a turning away from sin and a turning towards God's will every day in our affections and thoughts, actions and values. Jesus was being completely obedient to God as he identified with the rest of the humanity that he died for and rose again for so we could identify with him and his righteousness. We don't just get baptised because he did, but we are baptised into him. Baptism symbolises dying to our old selves. It is an outward sign of an inward change and obedience to Jesus. It means we can pass through the waters of judgement in safety and rise with Christ because of his humanity as shown in the significance of our baptism. It was the beginning of his ministry and at the end he commissioned his disciples to baptise all believers. Be careful not to make light of baptism. If we are reluctant to follow Jesus in baptism and obey him then our view of Jesus is too low. We need to reflect on why we treat lightly the things that Jesus did not. Pause and consider who you think Jesus is if you call yourself a Christian but have not been baptised.

In receipt of something good, we thank the giver. In weakness we seek out the strong, in poverty we seek out the rich, in fear we seek out the trustworthy, in the day to day challenges we seek out guidance. It's part of what we do. If our view of God is too low then the thanks we give is not to God. If we have a high and right view of God then we will depend on him and his riches, strength and guidance. This is the work of prayer. Jesus models it perfectly as he makes clear his identification with humanity as well as his divinity. Jesus is God. When Jesus was baptised, as he was praying, Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove. (v21) And a voice came from Heaven, "You are my Son. With you I am well pleased." There is no hiding from this display of Jesus being God's Son. This was seen by those present as the solid truth. The Holy Spirit could have descended like fire or a lion but he came as a gentle dove to empower Jesus afresh. Prayer and the Holy Spirit unleashes the power of God. Is it not exciting that we can commune with God and be empowered for his ministry here on earth? We can be guilty of making prayer a monotonous duty that lacks real power. We can treat it as a pep talk that can be interrupted by things like the radio or we forget that we have an appointment with the mighty God of Heaven. This happens when our view of Jesus is too low. He is in very nature God. Jesus, both God and man 200%. One God in three persons at work. United yet

different in roles. God the Son entering his ministry. God the Holy Spirit empowering that ministry and God the Father speaking his delight and approval of his Son. All three persons of the Godhead are making their presence known at this moment. The Godhead is mightily invested in this redemption work for our deliverance and satisfaction in God. This emboldens us to press on in spite of the reality of the conflict we are engaged with. It is painful and costly but we are never alone. When you do feel alone turn to this passage in Luke and see the might and concern of the Trinity. "The enemies of our souls are mighty but the friends of our souls are mightier still" (J.C. Ryle) This is our God but is this how we view him? A too low view of Jesus will be your ruin. The magnitude of this view is the difference between Heaven and Hell, between life and death, between salvation and damnation.

"Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph" (v23) The big distinction is that he was the Son of God. As we look at Joseph's genealogy we see the royal line of David, Judah and Abraham, and finally the son of Adam the son of God. But Jesus is also the 'Son' of God. The identity of Jesus is a matter of life and death. As a church we can lose the glory of Jesus. Church attendance will not save you and there are situations that prevent you from going to church but if church is an optional extra then we have a low view of Jesus. Do not miss the glorious Son: capital 'S' We can get caught up in things that are nothing when we could be caught up with the one who is everything.

Jesus as human is vital. He can represent us and obey as Adam failed to do. He can live and die in our place to atone for the wrath that is due because of our sin. He could not pay for our sin if he were not human. He can also be our example in life. Jesus got tired and troubled, sorrowful, crying and marvelling. Jesus walked our life. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). If we lose Jesus' humanity we lose our hope and salvation. Jesus has always been God, sinless and holy so he could pay the full penalty for our sin. Man can not save man. Only God can save man.

Let us come before God and have a right view of Jesus, to see him more clearly and accurately as God's Son with a capital 'S'. Let us repent of our low view of Jesus and run into the arms of the Son of God, the only one who can save us. In and of ourselves we can do no good thing. When we are in Jesus the Father is well pleased with us. Let our main care be to be one of Christ and Christ with us; united to the Lord Jesus by faith; that is life, that is joy. Not our lineage but only our union with Christ will save us.

Is Jesus the son of God or the Son of God as declared from Heaven? It is a matter of life and death to get it right.