

A WORD ON WORSHIP

Review of Message from January 21, 2018

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Luke 3:21-22

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized, too. And, as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."



If you are a Christian, then one of your deepest longings is to see others come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. And yet who among us has not felt tongue-tied when an opportunity to tell someone about Christ was staring us in the face. John the Baptist's life and ministry pointed people to Jesus Christ. As John 1:8 explains of John, "He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light." Luke uses this section to take John, the forerunner, off the scene and to authenticate the person of Jesus Christ, whose official ministry is inaugurated in Luke 4:14.

As we have seen, John's message is summed up as "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." (Luke 3:3). Repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ are at the heart of the gospel. A person who does not see and feel himself to be a sinner has no reason to need a Savior. If I came up to you and said, "I have great news. The governor has just offered you a pardon from prison," you would not be very thrilled with that news, and you might even be offended. Why? You are not guilty of any crime deserving of prison. But, if you have just been convicted of a serious crime and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, my announcement would be the most welcome news you could imagine.

If you walk up to a person who is not a Christian and say, "I have great news. God loves you and Jesus Christ died for your sins," the person will not appreciate your message and he might even get offended. He will think, "Of course God loves me. God is love and I'm a basically loveable person. But as for this sin stuff, I'm only human and I have my faults, but I'm not that bad of a person. Why do I need Jesus to die for my sins?"

One of the best ways you can confront a sinner with his sin is to get him to read the New Testament. He won't be five chapters into Matthew until he reads that if he has been angry with his brother, he has broken the commandment not to murder. If he has lusted after a woman in his heart, he has broken God's commandment against adultery. You can also give him tapes of sermons by preachers who preach God's Word. But remember, you are not really pointing a person to Jesus Christ unless you help him to see that he is a guilty sinner, under the just condemnation of God's holy Law.

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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