

<sup>21</sup> *When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened* <sup>22</sup> *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." Luke 3:21-22 NIV*

Trust is one of the most important virtues for humankind. Let's face it, there are times when we don't have all the facts, or are unsure of certain things. So to have someone we can trust or when we can be a trustworthy person someone else can turn to means a lot. The tragedy of humanity however, is that on a consistent basis, trust can be easily broken.

I know it bothers me when someone I thought I could trust lets me down, and if there was a "delete" button for my life one of the first places I would use it was the places I broke trust with another. In fact one of the things I learned early in ministry was to not make promises I couldn't keep. I would be so eager to visit someone or take on a task, promise to do it on the spot, only to find that other circumstances taking precedence. I am glad that didn't happen too often, but when it did the person was let down, and I felt very badly about it.

Jesus' baptism from Luke's gospel is good news for us that we CAN trust God always. This is Jesus' "inauguration" to his earthly ministry. It could have been pretty flashy, since he is the Son of God, but it far from that. Jesus submits to the baptism of John which is for the forgiveness of sin. The gospels record that there were many sinners who came, some with some very unsavory sins. So if Jesus is the "sinless" son of God why would he want to do that?

It is because he wanted to fully identify with humankind in all of its brokenness, hurt, and despair. Jesus identified so that we could fully trust God no matter what. Note that the scriptures tell us that it AFTER his baptism Jesus gets the wonderful revelation of the God the Father and God the Spirit. In fact it foreshadows Jesus' commitment to the cross and pain of death.

Such is the challenge of all of us as Christians. Can we trust God no matter what? Jesus' baptism foreshadows the "Calvary Road." He is truly with us. A story challenges us to rely on God, no matter what:

*The story tells about a mountain climber who wanted to climb the highest mountain. He began his adventure after many years of preparation. But since he wanted the glory just for himself, he decided to climb the mountain alone. The night felt heavy in the heights of the mountains, and the man could not see anything--all was black, zero visibility and the moon and the stars were covered by clouds.*

*As he was climbing, only a few feet away from the top of the mountain, he slipped and fell into the air falling at great speed. The climber could only see black spots as he went down and the terrible sensation of being sucked by gravity.*

*He kept falling...and in those moments of great fear, it came to his mind all the good and the bad episodes of his life. He was thinking about how close death was getting, when all of a sudden, he felt the rope tied to his waist pull him very hard. His body was hanging in the air...only the rope was holding him. And in the moment of stillness, he had no other choice but to scream, "Help Me God!"*

*All of a sudden, a deep voice coming from the sky answered, "What do you want me to do?"*

*"Save me, God!" yelled the climber.*

*"Do you really think I can save you?" asked God.*

*"Of course I believe you can!"*

*"Then cut the rope tied to your waist."*

*There was a moment of silence, then the man decided to hold on to the rope with all his strength.*

*The rescue team tells, that the next day, a climber was found dead and frozen, his body hanging from a rope. His hands were holding tight to it...but he was only 10 feet away from the ground.*

YES sometimes it's really hard, but by Jesus' example in his baptism we can truly trust him, no matter what.

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