

The Commissioning of the King

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 3.
- B. Jesus is commissioned king at his baptism.
- C. There are three aspects to the commissioning of Jesus.

II. The baptism of the Son.

A. Details.

1. We do not know how old Jesus was when he started ministering. (Luke 3:21; 1:26; Numbers 4; 2 Chronicles 31; Ezra 3:8)
2. Jesus came along with everyone else.
3. Jesus came from Galilee initiating his public ministry. He waited a long time to initiate it.
4. John knew Jesus, but he did not yet have the divine confirmation. (Luke 1:42; John 1:29)
5. John resisted baptizing Jesus because Jesus was sinless and he was sinful. (Hebrews 4:15, John 1)

B. Significance.

1. Jesus was identifying with all the acts of unrighteousness in his baptism. (Matthew 17)
2. Jesus identified with sinners. (Isaiah 53:11)
3. Jesus was foreshadowing his death. (Luke 12:50, Mark 10:38)

III. The anointing of the Spirit.

A. Details.

1. The idea of his commission was to see him as Savior.
2. The Old Testament standards, the preposition *into*, the concept of much water, the entry into the river and the picture of death and resurrection all point to immersion. (Leviticus 14:8-9, Mark 1:9, Luke 16:24, John 13:26)
3. Heaven was opened and the people were given a look. (Revelation 4)

4. The Spirit appears as a dove, a common sacrificial attitude reminding those present of sacrifice.

B. Significance.

1. Jesus was being anointed for service. (Psalm 45:7, Isaiah 61)

2. Jesus was being strengthened in his humanness. (Acts 10:38)

3. The dove foreshadows sacrifice.

IV. The word of the Father. The Father says that Jesus was shown to be a worthy sacrifice over the course of his life.

Application Questions:

1. What is the significance of Jesus baptism?

2. Why might the mode of Jesus' baptism be important? Explain.

3. How does his passage advance our understanding of the Godhead? Explain.
