



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – March 27, 2022

To Know Christ...

Do you ever think of Jesus being hindered or prevented from doing anything while He was here on earth? In Matthew 3:13-15, we find that Jesus came to John (not the apostle) to be baptized by him in the Jordan River. John tried to prevent Jesus from being baptized!

John came preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4) John was sent to baptize in water in order for the Son of God to be revealed to Israel (John 1:29-34) as the Lamb of God. Did you catch why John would want to prevent Jesus from being baptized? Jesus has NO SIN to repent of, nor sins to forgive! But Jesus answered John, "**Permit it at this time for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**" (Matthew 3:15) Then John "permitted" (allowed) Jesus to be baptized.

Have you ever been prevented or hindered from doing something you knew was God's will? We typically do not like being hindered or told no. Do you run over people claiming it is RIGHT? Have you considered Jesus when He was hindered or prevented? Jesus knew John did not fully understand, so they actually had a conversation. (How easy does that sound?) How many difficulties could be easily solved between loved ones with just a simple conversation utilizing Scripture as the foundation? Every one of them can! (If all involved are set on being spiritually-minded.)

One final thought. In Acts 2:37-38, we also hear Peter proclaim to those alienated from God a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. However, this baptism also had the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Which John's baptism did not!) The power to walk in the spiritual way of Jesus in Holiness, especially having the power to overcome emotions in order to love one another, even when hindered. Let's be more like Jesus, we have been given the power to imitate Him!

- Carey Terry