

QUEST – 52 – Week 6
If Jesus Was Perfect, Why Was He Baptized?
Sermon: Historic Identity
January 5, 2025

KEY POINTS:

- Gospel literally means “good news”. Originally it was used in connection with earthly kings, but Jesus is the king over every kingdom.
- Jesus’s baptism was for the forgiveness of sins – not his but ours. This foreshadowed what would happen on the cross and is reflected in our own baptism.
- Jesus’s temptation in the wilderness reversed the failure of Israel. If you walk with Jesus through your temptation, through your own past failure, he can turn your history around.

QUESTIONS:

Did reading this essay change how you see baptism

Read Numbers 13-14 . Where do you see yourself in the story? Are you like the ten spies who feared? Like the two who believed? Or like the crowd who refused to obey?

Meditate on Romans 6:1-7; Ephesians 6:2-3; 1 Corinthians 10:1-5. How do these two descriptions of baptism relate to Jesus’s baptism?

- Share a story of someone in your life who paved the way for you. It could be a sibling, parent, mentor or coach.
- Have you ever willingly taken the blame or punishment for someone else or paid the price someone else owed? How did that feel?
- What does it mean to have your life absorbed in Jesus (Colossians 3:3-4)?
- If you have not been baptized what is hindering you from taking that step?