

# Jesus is the Savior of the World

Mark 1:4-11

Baptism of our Lord

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It must have been quite the scene to see John the Baptist. You would have a mix congregation for sure. You would have people of all different classes, vocations, and backgrounds. In one part would be the Jewish leaders wondering what John was all about and if they should be concerned about his teachings. Somewhere else you would see Roman soldiers wondering how they can respond to John's message. Probably in the front you had the prostitutes and tax collectors hanging on every word John had to say about the coming Savior. Meanwhile you also had those fishermen who would one day follow Jesus as they trained to be the leaders of a new church.

They all came to listen to a man who lived out in the wilderness, who wore camel's hair for clothing with a leather belt, and ate locust and wild honey. He must have been a sight to see. But, why did they come out to the desert to listen to this man? What message could he have that would cause soldiers to obey, prostitutes to change their ways, and Pharisees to be threatened?

He taught the same message that we hear today in church, in Bible Class, and in our personal devotional life. He taught them about a coming Savior who came to save the whole world. He came to tell them about Jesus the Savior of the world.

With a savior coming what were the people to do? They were to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. It is the same today. Our God tells us that Jesus came as that Savior and he saved the world from sin. What does that mean for all people including us? repent! We must repent of our sins daily. We are to repent because in it there is forgiveness.

That may sound easy, but nothing could be further from the truth. What makes repenting hard is the same reason why John's message was a threat to the Jewish leaders: we don't always think we need to repent.

We confess in the beginning of service on most Sunday's that we are sinners from conception and birth. That we have sinned in desire thought word and deed. We say that we are sorry, and we beg for God to forgive us. And if we don't say it in the beginning, those sentiments are found in the hymns we sing, the bible readings we hear, and the prayers we pray. But, often like the Pharisees we don't think that everything we do is a sin. When we say we are sinful we might still think that there are some actions that we have done that were justified or at least not wrong at all.

But is that what our God tells us in his word? Are we truly justified or righteous in anything we do?

We find our answers in the Ten Commandments. Some examples can go like this: The first commandment tells us that we should have no other gods. That means God must always come first and we would agree with that. We may even admit that we have been guilty of putting him second or third or even last at times.

But, what about that time you went on vacation and decided not to go to church because you had plans that day? But, what about that time when the offering plate came around and you only were able to put in what was left in your wallet or pocket because you didn't plan accordingly? But, what about that time you had to miss because you had to go and help somebody else? Do you think you need to confess of those times as sin?

Instead we might think, can't we have a few days off, what was I supposed to do, or so I forgot to bring the offering this time, at least I gave something. If you think that way, then you admit that you didn't think you were sinning and therefore don't need to repent. But, you did sin because you didn't put God first then in your life. Even if you truly had no other choice you still sinned because you still failed to be perfect.

The fourth commandment tells us to honor our father and mother, which means we are to give honor and respect to every authority because God has placed them there for our good. We might admit

that we don't always show honor to those in power whether it be the president, government officials, police officers, teachers, pastors, and employers.

But, what about that time someone in authority messed up and did something horribly wrong and you laughed at them? But, what about that time when someone in authority insulted you and even meant to hurt you and you started calling that person names or started mistreating them and disrespecting them? But, what that time when that person in authority had it coming? Do you think you need to admit that you were wrong?

Instead, we would say that if they did something wrong we should be able to make fun of them because what good is it if we can't laugh at other's mistakes. If they hurt my feelings I can hurt theirs. If they had it coming well then what else should they expect? If you think that way, then you admit that you don't think what you did was a sin. Except, your God does because you didn't always show respect and honor to those in authority.

That is just two commandments. Imagine if we reviewed all ten. Repentance calls for us to admit that we are so sinful that everything we do is stained with sin. Instead of trying to prove that we haven't sinned we need to stop our pride from talking and humble ourselves by remembering that we are truly sinful in every way.

There is nothing we are truly justified in doing because it was never good enough to begin with and often is hindered by our sinful pride and desires. If we claim to have some holiness we are claiming that God is a liar and that we don't need him to make us holy. We must repent, confessing that we are truly sinful and in need of Savior to save us from everything we say, think, or do.

The good news is that we can confess our sinfulness with confidence because we know that we have a Savior who makes us holy in his sight. John pointed us to a coming Savior who was powerful to save. One who came to give us the Holy Spirit to create faith in our hearts so that our confession and baptism would mean something.

Jesus came to truly give us forgiveness. When we confess our sins, we can be certain that we will be forgiven because of Jesus. When we are baptized we can be confident that our sins are being washed away because of Jesus. When we take the Lord's Supper we can be certain that our faith is being sustained and strengthened because of Jesus.

Jesus is the one who gives repentance, baptism, and the Lord's Supper, power because he is powerful to save. He is truly God. Jesus is the one who forgives us because he paid for all our sins. Jesus is the one who washes away our sins at our baptism because he rose from the dead. Jesus is the one who can sustain us with his Word and Holy Supper because he still rules for us and has given us his Holy Spirit to dwell in each and every single one of us.

John pointed to Jesus as the Savior of the Word but if for some reason you think John might have been mistaken, we someone else's testimony to lean on as well. God the Father himself gave us his "two cents" by pointing out that Jesus is his Son. That means Jesus is the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity and God in the flesh. That is how we know that we are forgiven, washed, and sustained.

John taught about Jesus. By the power of God's Word soldiers obeyed, prostitutes changed their ways, fisherman followed, and tax collectors stopped cheating. We also see though that it caused some to fight back.

We can expect the same reaction to happen while we proclaim God's Word of repentance today even within our own heart. So, don't hold on to your pride. Don't keep thinking that what you did way back when was right when clearly it wasn't, even if you thought you had not other choice. If you hurt someone's feelings even if you didn't mean too, you sinned. If you disappointed someone else even if there was nothing you could do, you sinned. If you lost your cool, you sinned. If you did the right thing, you sinned.

You sinned because sin is all over us but with Jesu there is forgiveness and hope. He takes away our sin because he is the Lamb of God who paid for you sin. He takes away our sin because he gives us the Holy Spirit. He takes away our sin because he is God himself and powerful to save and forgive. So, repent, and admit that you are a sinner in every way and you will be forgiven always and by God's grace you will be seen by him as a saint. Amen.