

**Adult Sunday School**  
**October 18, 2020**  
**Matthew 3; Modules 5-6**

WSC Q. 27. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

### **Outline**

- We have cleared Matthew 1-2 which sets forth the arrival in history of Jesus the Messiah.
- We move on to chapter 3- John the Baptist prepares for the appearance of the Messianic Kingdom. John now appears preaching in the Judean desert. It is more than 25 years since Joseph and his family moved to Nazareth. The focus of Matthew's Gospel now shifts to Jesus' public ministry.

### **Module 5 - Matthew 3:1-12**

**Scope and Purpose** - These verses describe the ministry of John the Baptist. This is a ministry that deserves close attention. No one ever preached like him, Jesus called him "burning and shining light" (John 5:35). There was none greater than he up to this point. Let us focus on the features of his ministry.

### **Prominent Points**

1. John speaks plainly about sin. He taught the absolute necessity of repentance. Men and women are not to rest on outward privileges or outward union in the church.
  - Application- We are naturally dead and blind and asleep in spiritual things. We content ourselves in formal religion. If we go to church then we must be saved. We must be told that unless we repent, we perish.
2. John speaks plainly about our Lord Jesus Christ. He taught people that One mightier than he was coming among them. He is the King. He would baptize with the Holy Spirit. He would take away sins and judge the world. (WSC # 23-28, Christ's offices and his humiliation/exaltation).
  - Application - We need to go directly to Christ. We fall short of this when we rest in our union with the church rather than union with Christ. This union is by faith. He is the fountain of mercy, grace, life, and peace. Our salvation hinges on this.
3. John speaks plainly about the Holy Spirit. He speaks of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was the office of Christ to give us the Holy Spirit. (WSC #29-30)
  - Application - We have the baptizing of our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We need the work of the Spirit in us. He prepares us for heaven. We need to know the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
4. John speaks of the awful danger of the impenitent and unbelieving. There is wrath to come.
  - Application - If we don't repent we go to hell. This is an everlasting punishment. We speak God's love but forget his justice and holiness. We must not hold back the terrors of the Lord in our witness, using it appropriately in our conversation. The unconverted are hanging over the brink of eternity.
5. John speaks of the safety of true believers. We will be gathered together in the day of resurrection. (WSC 38).
  - Application - We all need encouragement. We live in a wicked world, we are tempted by the devil. Jesus will never leave us or forsake us. He will guide us safely through life and then give us eternal glory. We shall be then hidden in his glory, hidden like Noah in the ark.

## Conclusion to Module 5

Let these things sink into our hearts. There is much false teaching today. We need pastors and teachers like John. We need to be witnessing the Gospel like John.

## Module 6 - Matthew 3:13-17

**Scope and Purpose** - Jesus' baptism was the first step in his public ministry. The Jewish priests washed before their public ministry, along the same line, Jesus begins his High Priestly work by washing in baptism.

### Prominent Points

1. The honor placed on the sacrament of baptism. Two cautions:
  - a. Beware that we do not place a superstitious importance on the water of baptism. All people baptized do not receive grace.
  - b. Beware that we do not dishonor the sacrament. A baptism ought to excite the Christian assembly, it is to set forth fervent prayers. The more deeply we are convinced that baptism and grace are not inseparably tied together, the more we ought to feel bound to join in prayer for a blessing, whenever anyone is baptized. (See Directory for the Public Worship of God III-B-1-b-(2) on the meaning and nature of the sacrament of baptism)
2. The peculiarly solemn circumstances by which the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ was attended.
  - a. We are told of the presence of all three Persons of the Trinity. God the Son in the flesh, is baptized; God the Spirit descends like a dove and lights upon him; God the Father speaks from heaven with a voice. We can consider the Covenant of Redemption is reflected here as the redemption of the elect was sealed before the foundation of the world in the council of the Trinity.
  - b. The Father declares that Jesus is the divine Savior sealed and appointed from all eternity to carry out the work of redemption; he proclaims that he accepts him as the Mediator between God and man; he publishes to the world that he is satisfied with him as the propitiation, the ransom-payer for the lost family of Adam, and the Head of a redeemed people.

## Conclusion to Module 6

These words are full of rich food for thought; they are full of peace, joy, comfort, and consolation for all who have fled for refuge to Christ. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,* (Ephesians 1:3-5)

