



# What Jesus Said

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## 1. Matthew 3:13-17. *The Baptism of Jesus*

The first time we hear mention of what Jesus actually spoke out aloud is recorded in the **Gospel of Saint (St.) Matthew** (sometimes referred to as the 'Book of Matthew').

This story is found in the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 3, versus 13, 14 and 15 – we write it like this: **Matthew 3:13-15**. *BibleHomework* uses this format throughout its website.

### The Scripture:

**Matthew 3:13-15** - Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. But John tried to prevent him. "I need you to baptise me", he said. "Surely you do not come to me?" But Jesus replied, **"It is right for us to meet all the Law's demands - let it be so now."**

**3:16-17** - Then John agreed to his baptism. Jesus came straight out of the water afterwards, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting upon him. And a voice came out of Heaven saying, *"This is my dearly-loved son, in whom I am well pleased."*

### The Explanation:

What is Jesus referring to when he states **"It is right for us to meet all the Law's demands"**?

It had been written and foretold that John the Baptist would travel around Jerusalem and Judea preparing the way for the coming of Jesus. He had been asking people to repent their sins and to be baptised.

Then Jesus appeared before him. Jesus being baptised by John would give credibility to his mission. Jesus also needed to be baptised on behalf of the people and John was the man to do it. Being baptised by John the Baptist was also seen as the starting point of Jesus' own ministry.

After Jesus is baptised the **Holy Trinity** comes together with God the father announcing his pleasure in His Son; Jesus the Son of God and the Dove representing the Holy Spirit resting upon him. We will discuss the Holy Trinity in depth in another section.

### Places and People Mentioned:

**Galilee:** Is a large area in today's Northern Israel, located on the Eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea.

**Jerusalem:** Was the capital of Judea, and is the Capital of the State of Israel (though this is contested by some members of the World Community). It is one of the oldest cities in the world located in the Judean Mountains.

**Judea:** The name of the mountainous southern part of the Land of Israel, roughly corresponding to today's Southern West Bank. The region is named after both the biblical tribe of 'Judah' and with the old 'Kingdom of Judah'

**John The Baptist:** In the Gospel of St. Luke he is described as a relative of Jesus. He was a travelling preacher, announcing the coming of 'The Messiah' and baptising people in the River Jordan.

### Questions:

1. What would John be feeling when he was approached by Jesus?
2. What was John's purpose?
3. What marked the event that started Jesus' ministry?
4. How would Jesus being baptised affect other people's thinking of being baptised?
5. What do you think is meant by 'being baptised'?
6. What does it tell you of Jesus' behaviour that the Son of God would be baptised by Man?