

# **The Baptism of Jesus**

Luke 3:1-38

by Don Falkos

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John was "the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Get ready for the coming of the Lord.' "

Large numbers of people went out to John to be baptized. But John said to them, "You bunch of snakes! Why do you come slithering down here to the river? Do you really think a little bit of water is going to protect you from the judgment of God? Change the way you live. Do something to show you really have given up your sins."

The crowd asked, "What should we do?"

"If you have two cloaks, give one away to someone who has no cloak at all. And if you have food, share it with someone in need."

To some tax collectors he said, "Stop forcing people to pay more than they owe so you can pad your own pockets."

And to some soldiers, "Don't make people to give you money to leave them alone. Be satisfied with your pay. Listen, all of you...serve God where God has put you by doing your work as it should be done."

The people wondered, "Could John be the Messiah."

But John said, "I baptize you with water. But the one who's coming after me is far more powerful than I am. I'm not even worthy to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the fire of the Holy Spirit, changing you from the inside out."

When all the people who had come out to John were being baptized in the Jordan River, Jesus was baptized too. After his baptism, while Jesus was praying, the sky opened up and the Holy Spirit came down to him in the form of a dove. Then a voice came from heaven. "You are my Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with you."