

## Son of God

(Luke 3:15-22)

### Introduction

[Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.

1. Big Idea: When we understand Jesus' identity, it shapes our new identity in Him.

### Jesus is greater than John [Luke 3:15-20]

1. [3:15-16a] The crowd's question: Are you the One we've been waiting for?
  - a. [16a] John's response: It's not about me; it's about Jesus.
  - b. John understands who Jesus is, which shapes his goals & priorities about life.
  - c. Application: Do you elevate yourself & take glory away from God? Or do you point people to Jesus, like John?
  - d. His identity shapes our *identity* because there is joyful humility in knowing that He is a worthy Savior.
2. [3:16b-20] Jesus' ministry is greater than John's: In baptism & judgment
3. [3:16b] Jesus' baptism is greater than John's
  - a. John baptizes externally with water; Jesus baptizes internally with the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. The Holy Spirit is the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity God who makes us a Christian:
    - i. He regenerates us to be born again [John 3:5-8]
    - ii. He gives conviction of sin [John 16:8]
    - iii. He gives love for Jesus [1 Cor 12:3]
    - iv. He seals us for salvation & guarantees our inheritance with God [Eph 1:13-14]
    - v. He gifts us for ministry [1 Cor 12:4-11]
    - vi. He sanctifies & matures us [John 16:12; Rom 8:1-11]
    - vii. He empowers us [Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8]
  - c. To be a Christian is to receive the gift of the indwelling presence & power of the Holy Spirit.
4. [3:17-20] Jesus' judgment is greater than John's.
  - a. [17] Wheat: Those who belong to & abide in Christ, and receive His Spirit.
  - b. Chaff: Those who choose not to love & follow Jesus, blown away by temptation, religion, false teaching, etc.
  - c. Application: What's your *identity*? Are you wheat or chaff?
  - d. [18] Wheat response: Hear the good news, & humbly repent, demonstrated in baptism.
  - e. [19-20] Chaff response: Called to repent, but fight God instead (like Herod).
  - f. John doesn't judge people in a hypocritical way, but he judges sin an honest way.
  - g. John says his judgment is small compared to the great judgment of the coming Messiah, so repent.

### Jesus is God [Luke 3:21-22]

1. Why does Jesus get baptized?
  - a. Baptism is for sinners, but Jesus doesn't sin [cf. Heb 4:15; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 1:18-19].
  - b. Several possible reasons:
    - i. A symbolic anointing as the King of kings / Messiah.
    - ii. An endorsement of John's ministry as the forerunner to the Messiah.
    - iii. To set a precedent for how Christians should be baptized.
    - iv. Most significantly: To *identify* with sinners & show them how He will save them.
  - c. Baptism represents His death, burial & resurrection [cf. Rom 6:3-4].

2. Significance of Jesus' baptism:
  - a. The whole Trinity is present, validating Jesus' ministry.
  - b. Heresy of Modalism / Sabellianism: He's one God wearing 3 different masks at 3 different times.
    - i. Proven untrue: One God in 3 persons (co-equal, co-eternal, reigning as one), *simultaneously present*.
  - c. Jesus' baptism answers the question: Who is the coming One we are waiting for, greater even than John?
    - i. The Holy Spirit is publicly visible so that everyone would know & see Jesus is God, Savior, Messiah.
    - ii. The Father speaks from heaven & confirms: This is His Son.
3. Significance of the Father's proclamation: An issue of identity.
  - a. In ancient cultures, "Son of God" means the same as God.
    - i. The same glory, honor, authority, preeminence, power.
  - b. Jesus' Father is well pleased with Him before He does any public ministry.
  - c. Like Jesus, our relationship with God begins with love & approval (vs. religion trying to earn God's approval)

### **In Christ, you are a beloved son of God**

4. Jesus went to the cross and took our place, giving us His place, so now we are sons of God [cf. Gal 4:6-7].
  - a. In Christ, we hold the esteemed, privileged position that the Son did.
  - b. We receive the full inheritance (beginning with the Holy Spirit) & family name, as Christians.
5. Application: In Christ, you have a new *identity* as a son of God.
6. Application: If you're not in Christ yet, you need to repent of sin, trust in Jesus, receive His Spirit, & enjoy being adopted as a son of God.