

Fulfil All Righteousness



Matthew 3:13–17 · This week: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord, Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me** lesson 04, “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord,” on Gospel Library

START

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John, and John tried to talk him out of it (Matthew 3:13–14).

READ TOGETHER

John knew Jesus had no sins to wash away. He said, “I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?” (Matthew 3:14).

MATTHEW 3:13–16

¹³ Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

¹⁴ But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵ And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. ¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

WHAT IT TEACHES

Jesus answered, “Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15). Suffer it means allow it. The sinless Son of God obeyed every commandment his Father gave.

Nephi saw this event in vision and explained it. Jesus was baptized to show his humility and his

obedience to the Father, and to show us the gate we must enter (2 Nephi 31:5–9). If he needed baptism, Nephi reasoned, we need it even more.

Jesus “went up straightway out of the water” (Matthew 3:16). He had gone down into the water and come up out of it. Baptism by immersion is a picture of burial and new life (Romans 6:4).

John had authority from God to baptize, given to him when he was eight days old (Doctrine and Covenants 84:27–28). The same ordinance is done today by the same authority, restored in 1829.

TALK ABOUT IT

Jesus was baptized even though he had never sinned. What does that teach about why baptism matters, and what do you remember or look forward to about your own?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Jesus went into the Jordan to be baptized, though he had no sin, to fulfil all righteousness. If he needed baptism, Nephi said, we need it even more.