



A New Kind of Normal

January 10, 2010

Luke 3:15-22

“The Baptism of Jesus”

On the day Jesus is baptized by John, a “new kind of normal” is introduced to the world. It is a “normal” that is brought about by the work of God on behalf of His adopted children through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Therefore, what makes Jesus’ baptism so significant is that it marks the beginning of His ministry among us and identifies the task He has—to bring us the forgiveness of sins and His resurrection power into our lives through the cross and empty tomb. Jesus did not need forgiveness, but we certainly need Him! Amen? Amen!

So what does a “new kind of normal” mean for us today in a world that is far from Christ? And, what exactly does God’s baptism of us do for/to us as His adopted children? Listen in this morning as we begin a journey into a world of “a new kind of normal.” It will change your life!

Crosstalk Points

(Pastor’s Message)

- During hard times like we are experiencing, **fear** becomes the beast that destroys churches, families and friendships. Fear has to be conquered if churches, families and friendships are to remain God-strong. **God’s new kind of normal conquers fear.**
- Your “new kind of normal” begins at your baptism or your confession of faith that “Jesus is Lord!” **It is created by His gift of faith and forgiveness** as well as a certainty that He will never leave you or forsake you.
- Once God’s new kind of normal begins in your life, **the Holy Spirit works in our lives** to bring Him glory by transforming our lives by and for the sake of the Gospel.
- For example, think about the economic uncertainty and financial challenges many people are experiencing. **What would a ‘new kind of normal’ do for people if they could experience God’s presence and peace in their lives financially?**

Notes:

For Further Thought and Discussion

- *Is it easy or difficult for you to identify with Christ through your own Baptism? Are you able to see the personal relationship you have with Him through God’s gift of Word, Spirit, and Faith?*
- *Jesus’ baptism marks a beginning for Him and His ministry. Do you see your baptism or confession that “Christ is Lord!” as a new beginning for you? Where do you see the Holy Spirit working in your life to help you see God’s activity in your life? Where is He working or wanting to work to create a “new normal” for you?*