

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matthew 3:13–17

“The King Revealed at the Jordan”

Preaching Date: March 29, 2026

Opening Prayer

Ask God to give us reverent hearts under His Word. Ask Him to show us Christ as He is truly revealed at the Jordan: the beloved Son, the Spirit anointed Messiah, and the righteous Savior who came to fulfill all righteousness for sinners.

Recap

In Matthew 3:13–17, Jesus comes to John to be baptized, not because He needs repentance, but because He has come to fulfill all righteousness as the obedient Mediator for His people. John rightly feels unworthy, yet he does not yet fully grasp why the sinless Christ would come so near to sinners. At the Jordan, Jesus publicly identifies Himself with those He came to save. Then heaven opens, the Spirit descends upon Him, and the Father declares, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” On Palm Sunday, this passage helps us see what kind of King Jesus is. He is not merely a King to be admired, but the Servant King who came in humility to obey, suffer, and save. Therefore, every hearer must receive Christ as the Father presents Him, rest in His righteousness alone, and follow Him with repentance, faith, and public obedience.

Understanding the Text

1. Why does John initially resist baptizing Jesus, and what does his protest reveal about both John and Christ?
2. What does Jesus mean when He says, “it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness”?
3. In what sense does Jesus identify with sinners in this passage, and why is that essential to His saving work?
4. Why is the descent of the Spirit significant, and what does it reveal about Jesus as the Messiah?
5. How does the Father’s declaration combine the themes of royal Sonship and suffering Servanthood?
6. How does this passage help us understand Palm Sunday rightly?
7. What does this text teach us about the triune God in the work of redemption?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. Are you merely admiring Jesus from a distance, or have you truly repented and trusted in Him as the One who fulfilled righteousness for sinners?

2. Where do you most feel the tension between Christ's holiness and your own unworthiness, and how does this passage help you understand why He came near to sinners?
3. How does the Father's pleasure in the Son strengthen assurance for weak and struggling believers?
4. In what area of your life do you need more public, straightforward obedience to Christ rather than hesitation, delay, or fear of man?
5. How should this passage shape the way our church worships, proclaims Christ, and calls sinners to faith and repentance?

God Has More to Say

Christ identifying with His people and fulfilling righteousness

Isaiah 53:10–12

Romans 5:12–19

2 Corinthians 5:21

Hebrews 4:14–16

Hebrews 7:26–28

The beloved Son, the Spirit-anointed Servant, and the promised King

Psalms 2:7–12

Isaiah 42:1–4

Isaiah 61:1–3

John 1:29–34

Acts 10:37–38

Palm Sunday and the true character of Christ's kingship

Zechariah 9:9

Matthew 21:1–11

John 12:12–16

Philippians 2:5–11

Assurance, acceptance, and righteousness in Christ

Romans 3:21–26

Romans 5:1–2

Romans 8:1

Philippians 3:7–9

1 Peter 3:18

Public allegiance to Christ and life as His disciples

Matthew 28:18–20

Acts 2:37–42

Romans 6:3–4

Colossians 2:11–12

Hebrews 10:19–25