

Jesus and John's Baptism

Why is Jesus baptized by John?

Luke 3:21-22 (ESV)

Now when **all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized** and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Purpose of John's Baptism

	Repentance	Remission (forgiveness) of sin
Jewish Ritual Baptisms (Washings)	No	No
John's Baptism	Yes	Yes

Jesus does not need to repent, nor does He need forgiveness of sin

Matthew 3:13-15 (ASV)

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to the Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John would have hindered him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? But Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it* now: for thus **it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness**. Then he suffereth him.

I don't know why Luke would omit this exchange between John and Jesus. His treatment of John's baptism is otherwise more complete than Matthew.

“Becometh” (G4241)

- Judge ye in yourselves: is it **seemly** that a woman pray unto God unveiled? (I Corinthians 11:13 ASV)
- But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as **becometh** saints; (Ephesians 5:3 ASV)
- In like manner, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefastness and sobriety; not with braided hair, and gold or pearls or costly raiment; but (which **becometh** women professing godliness) through good works. (I Timothy 2:9-10 ASV)
- But speak thou the things which **befit** the sound doctrine: (Titus 2:1 ASV)
- For it **became** him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (Hebrews 2:10. ASV)
- For such a high priest **became** us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; who needeth not daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people: for this he did once for all, when he offered up himself. (Hebrews 7:26-27. ASV)

Matthew 21:25 (ASV)

And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one question, which if ye tell me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven or from men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why then did ye not believe him? But if we shall say, From men; we fear the multitude; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We know not. He also said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Matthew 21:25 (ASV)

- To submit to John's baptism was tantamount to acknowledging that it was from God.
 - That was true of the chief priests and elders
 - It was also true of Jesus
 - Had Jesus refused John's baptism, the chief priests and elders could have asked Jesus the same question
 - It was therefore fitting that he should be baptized, though not necessary
- Never forget that Jesus did other "fitting" things
 - He prayed to His Father, John 11:38-42
 - He learned obedience through suffering, Hebrews 5:7-9
 - He lived our temptations, Hebrews 4:14-16