Baptism of our Lord 1 Samuel 16:1-13
January 9, 2022 709*-737**-89/297-299
*CW-S – "Christ, Your Footsteps through the Desert"
**CW-S – "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

"Anoint Him, Because This Is the One"
I. The one chosen by God's grace.
II. The one anointed to serve God and His people.
III. The one equipped by the Holy Spirit.

Dear Christian friends,

We see it **every week** in church but do we REALLY NOTICE it? I'm not talking about that **big cross** or the **Communion tables** – but that baptismal font. IT'S THERE but do we really notice it?

That sadly happens with Baptism, doesn't it – we FORGET about it? You know your **birthday** but do you also know your RE-BIRTHDAY – the actual date you were ***"born again"*** in Holy Baptism? We may not often think about our baptism – but our baptism is something God wants us to LIVE – ENJOY – SAVOR **every day** of our lives.

Today's readings PUT OUR FOCUS on **both Jesus'** baptism and **our own** baptisms. Obviously David here was **not** being baptized. There was no OT sacrament of Holy Baptism but there are some interesting similarities between David's **being anointed king** over Israel and Jesus' and our baptisms. So let's look closer at them guided by **God's command** to Samuel, ***"Anoint him, because this is the one."*** We see that David was 1)the one chosen by **God's grace**, 2)the one anointed to serve **God** and **His people** and 3)the one equipped by the **Holy Spirit.**

I. The one chosen by God's grace.

This reading begins with God BRUSQUELY asking Samuel, ***"How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons."***

God had rejected Saul because Sault **wouldn't** LISTEN to and OBEY God. God had been really clear about WHAT HE WANTED Saul to do. Saul's attitude and answer had been, "Lord, You have to understand – THIS IS HOW we're going to do things." In the chapter before this Samuel had told Saul, ***"Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you as king."*** God had HAD ENOUGH of Saul's disobedience – AND his excuses.

You're familiar with David's **life**. **At times** David could have SUCH A GREAT **faith** and **love** for the Lord. **At other times** David could slap God in the face with BLATANT DEFIANCE and **disobedience**. The Bible doesn't hide or excuse David's **adultery** with Bathsheba or the arranged murder of her husband Uriah. David may have been a GREAT KING over Israel but as a husband and **father** he had one MESSED-UP family. AS MUCH AS Saul deserved to be ***"rejected"*** by God because of his sin SO TOO did David. That God told Samuel, ***"Anoint him, because this is the one,"*** that was PURE GRACE – totally undeserved love on God's part.

That we have been baptized is PURE GRACE – **totally undeserved** love on God's part. Looking at Saul and **David** can't you SEE A LOT of yourself in them? LIKE SAUL we want to tell God, "No, Lord, **this is how** we're going to do things." **Like Saul** we have our excuses for why God should UNDERSTAND and **accept** our disobedience. "Lord, **I know** I should put You first in my life – **I know** I should trust You to **take care** of me, BUT…" LIKE DAVID we know very well what **God expects** of us but we still go and do the **exact opposite**. God doesn't want me PICKING on my sister – God wants me to be a LOVING, FAITHFUL spouse – God wants me to set my children and neighbors a GODLY

EXAMPLE in the language I sue, in my **attitude** and **work ethic**, in how I talk TO and ABOUT other people, etc. – but TOUGH LUCK, God!" AS MUCH AS Saul and David deserved to be ***"rejected"*** by God because of their sin SO TOO you and me!

WHAT GRACE God lavished on us when we **were baptized**! We were ***"dead in sin"*** and God ***"made us alive in Christ."*** **In Baptism** God put His name on us and said, ***"I have redeemed you; you are Mine!"*** In Baptism God washed our sins away in Jesus' blood – clothed us with Jesus' own perfect life. **In Baptism** God gave us a WHOLE NEW IDENTITY – He made us His children – promised us eternal life in heaven. WHAT GRACE!

II. The one anointed to serve God and His people.

We're not told if Samuel EXPLAINED to David what this **anointing all meant**. While God had chosen David to be **the next king** over Israel it was NOT YET TIME for David to take over as king. David needed to learn some **important lessons** first. David would go through the SCHOOL of **hard knocks** and **tough times** to LEARN TO DEPEND on God – on **God's** promises – on **God's** power – **God's** timing. But EVEN AS David went back to tending his father's flocks – or later playing the harp for Saul, etc., - David DID SO as God's ***"anointed one"*** – anointed TO SERVE **God** and **His people**.

"Anoint him, because this is the one." The names Christ (Greek) and Messiah (Hebrew) both mean "the Anointed One." Those names emphasize that Jesus was CHOSEN and SENT by His heavenly Father on a mission – ***"to seek and to save that which was lost – not to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many."*** So Jesus lived His WHOLE life. In our place and **to our credit** Jesus perfectly obeyed every commandment. For example, **Mary** and **Joseph** were not perfect parents to Jesus but Jesus still gave them the PERFECT **love, respect, obedience** the 4th Commandment calls for from us.

Jesus was 30 years old when He **was baptized** by John the Baptist. That also marked the start of a NEW PHASE of Jesus' life – what we call His "public ministry." Jesus would spend the **next three years** OUT IN THE PUBLIC preaching, teaching, healing, etc. Through it all Jesus was BUSY SERVING **both** His heavenly Father and us. **That serving** eventually led to the **cross** AND to the empty grave of Easter morning. There at the cross Jesus SERVED US by taking the blame for the sins of the whole world and enduring the punishment we had coming. There Jesus served us BY SACRIFICING His holy life – by SHEDDING His precious blood – to pay for **every one** of our sins in full. TRUSTING in Jesus we now enjoy God's FULL and FREE forgiveness of all our sins. We have God's promise that we **are going straight** to heaven when we die.

In Baptism God worked that **saving faith** in our hearts. **In Baptism** God made us Christians – people who trust in Jesus as their Savior. **In Baptism** God made us NEW PEOPLE and gave us a WHOLE NEW PURPOSE in life – to serve our **Savior** ad **His people**. Money and the job may be A PART of our lives but they're not what our lives are ALL ABOUT. Sports and the Packers may **be a part** of our lives but they're not what our lives are all about. We've BEEN BAPTIZED! We are Christians – BELOVED children of our heavenly Father! **God** is now not just A PART of our lives – God is the CENTER – the HEART – of our lives – every day of our lives!

Let's not push our **baptism** or **God** OFF TO the side in our lives. When we go to school or **work** or out **to the barn** – when we're watching TV – playing sports – using the internet – having a drink – we DON'T STOP being Christians – stop **being children** of God. THAT WE ARE baptized, redeemed children of God – that NOW SHAPES how we study and **do our job** – how we play sports – what we watch on TV – have a drink, etc. **In his catechism** Luther begins both the morning and evening prayers with making the sign of the cross and saying, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." That's meant to remind us that we BEGIN and END each day with the joy and **confidence**, "I've been baptized! I'm A CHILD of God and so I'm going to live – end – this day – AS A CHILD of God."

III. The one equipped by the Holy Spirit.

You know that's EASIER SAID than done. We can have SUCH GOOD INTENTIONS about living for God but they soon fall before the **devil's attacks** – the world's **wicked influence** – the stubbornness of our sinful natures. But instead of GIVING UP **in frustration** go back to your baptism and what God all did for you and gave to you when you were baptized.

David had a LONG ROAD ahead of him. Read through his life in **your devotions** this week – it starts here in 1 Samuel 16. Through the years – **through** the many ups and downs, the twists and turns – David could keep going back to this day. ***"Anoint him, because this is the one."*** Anointing in the OT – pouring some olive oil on a person's head – meant **1)**GOD HAD CHOSEN this person for whatever the job and **2)**God had ALSO EQUIPPED that person for the job. So we're told here, ***"The Spirit of the LORD rushed on David with power from that day forward."***

We have the same truth in **Jesus'** baptism. Jesus wasn't anointed with olive oil but ***"with the Holy Spirit and power"*** as Peter tells us. Being our Savior was **not** an EASY JOB for Jesus. The devil himself coming after you with **temptation after temptation**. The cross was **no picnic**. Yes, Jesus is true God – the **eternal, almighty Son** of God Himself. But Jesus is also a TRUE MAN. Jesus ***"humbled Himself"*** – He didn't use all His divine powers all the time. Jesus found comfort and strength IN THE TRUTH that He was sent by His heavenly Father **on this mission** and that His Father had equipped Him with the Holy Spirit for that mission.

In Baptism God gave us the Holy Spirit as our ***"Counselor – Comforter – Guide"*** in life. THROUGH the gospel the Holy Spirit brought us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. **Through the gospel** the Holy Spirit keeps us in that faith. **Through the gospel** the Holy Spirit helps us live our faith each day – He gives us the strength we need to ***"daily deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow"*** Jesus.

"Anoint him, because this is the one." WHAT GRACE God lavished on David that day **Samuel anointed** him. WHAT GRACE God lavished on us when He sent us Jesus to be our perfect Savior. WHAT GRACE **God lavished** on us that day we were baptized with water ***"in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*** Amen.

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