

JESUS BAPTIZED

LUKE 3

Probably you like to eat honey, but have you tried grasshoppers for lunch lately? Or have you ever heard of anyone eating locusts? I'm told they are a lot like grasshoppers but I'm not going to check the taste for you.

After Joseph and Mary found Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem, they all returned home to Nazareth. As Jesus grew, God blessed Him and everyone loved Him. The next time we are told about Jesus, in Luke chapter 3, Jesus is 30 years old. Meanwhile, a man named John the Baptist was living out in the desert. His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair and were fastened around his waist by a leather belt. He actually ate locusts for his food. They were plentiful out there in the desert. He also ate honey from the wild bees. But now the time had come for John to preach to the people. He told them to get ready for the Saviour by turning away from their sins. He preached by the Jordan River and great crowds came to hear him. John said they must not think their sins would be forgiven just because they were descendents of a good man like Abraham. He said they themselves must obey God. Many who heard John preach, turned away from their sins and were baptized by him by being put under the water in the river.

Then Jesus came to John and asked to be baptized. John did not want to do it. "I need to be baptized by you" John told Jesus. "Why do you come to me?" Jesus had no sins to be washed away. Why, then, should He be baptized? Well, it was because He had come to earth to obey all of God's commandments for us. Jesus told John to baptize Him anyway even though he did not understand why for it was necessary to obey God's Word. So, John baptized Jesus. As the Lord Jesus was coming up out of the water, the sky above Him opened and what looked like a dove came down from Heaven and lighted upon Him. It was God's Holy Spirit. At the same time God's voice, the voice of God the Father, spoke from Heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, I am very pleased with Him."

The reason God was pleased with Jesus was because Jesus did what God said He should do. Do you know anyone wise who has always done what God wants? No, only Jesus Christ has done this. That is because He is the Son of God. Jesus had no sin of His own. That is, he always obeyed God. And that is why Jesus could die on the cross for our sins. The Bible says that whoever sins must die. But Jesus died for you and for me. He is the Saviour that John the Baptist told about. But is He your Saviour? If you want Him to be, you must ask Him to be. Then read today's Bible Story for yourself in Luke chapter 3.