

**The Baptism of The Lord**  
**Isaiah 42:1- 4,6-7 / Acts 10:34-38 / Luke 3:15-16,21-22**

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Of the hundreds of Jews who had flocked to hear the Baptist's message, and who were present when Christ insisted on going through John's baptismal rite and who had probably heard the words from heaven proclaiming him to be the expected Messiah, only two left the Baptist and followed him. One of these was Andrew and the other was most probably John the Evangelist. Later in that day Andrew told Peter, his brother, that he had found the Messiah and Peter joined him too.

What was wrong with the hundreds of others? We are told they were all agog about the Messiah and were wondering in their hearts if John was not he. Yet when the real Messiah was pointed out to them they did nothing about it. John had told them the Messiah would baptize them, not with water as he did, but with the Holy Spirit of God, and with fire. As Jews they must have understood that this meant he would make of them a holy people, a spiritual people, a people close to God and cleansed from all earthly attachments.

Was it this that held them back? Were their hearts so centered on the things of earth, the things of this life, that they had no time for things spiritual? Were they so anxious for a king, a messiah, who would set them free from the hated pagan Romans and give them once more a powerful earthly kingdom? The vast majority of the Jews of that day did not want a spiritual Messiah or kingdom. They were not interested in a heaven of the future, they wanted their heaven, their happiness, and prosperity here on earth.

Before we pass any judgement on such folly, let us have a look into our own hearts today. We are Christians, we are followers of Christ, we know he was God, we believe his Word. We are convinced that getting to heaven is more important than getting all the treasures and pleasures this earth has to offer. But do we always live up to these convictions?

**Personal Reflection**

Are we true Christians seven days of the week?

In our work, in our speech, in our dealings with others, in our family life, are we truly following Jesus and his teachings?

**Group Faith Sharing**

What are the treasures that my heart desires?

Is Jesus the only treasure that I would ever need?

What must I do to allow Jesus to direct my life?

*"Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for bringing salvation to all the nations. May the gospel of salvation be proclaimed to every nation today and to every person on the face of the earth. Help me to be a good witness of the joy of the gospel to all I meet."*