

Precious in God's Sight

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Luke 3:15-22

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Today we remember the Baptism of the Lord

We are called to hear the sparse telling in Luke's gospel...in fact it is actually quite sparse in all of the Gospels.

Every time we witness another baptism we are called to remember our own baptisms.

In the waters of baptism we bear witness to this outward sign of an invisible grace.

Grace offered to us from the one who delights in us and whispers over us "you are my beloved, you are precious in my sight."

Beloved...precious...special...to delight in

God loves us so much that God finds joy in us...God pursues us like a treasure.

Our Creator knows us inside and out.

We are beloved because we exist and God loves us, PERIOD!

We need to be gentler with ourselves and with one another.

We all walk through this world with pains and worries

To walk wet is to Walk in Christ

As God's beloved we are to invite others to the font and the table

O Brother Where Art Thou

"C'mon in boys, the water is fine."

Remember when you pass through the waters that seem like they will overwhelm you...God will be with you.

God knows how fragile and broken we really are...we must remember that Baptism is not just about self, it is about living life as being part of something more...

God cares for the most vulnerable places of our hearts and souls.

Baptism is an act of the community.

Story of the Kenyan baptism.

Remember your baptism....remember you are beloved...you are precious

"Jesus loves the little children"

You are blessed to be a blessing

We are people of light, people of hope, people of gentleness, precious people walking wet...for we are beloved.

In this life together we remember that God is God forever...no matter what, we belong to God

Because of that belonging...we will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God

Henri-Federic Amiel's benediction

"Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind."