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Epiphany: The Baptism of the Lord Jesus Lesson 3

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Online Bible Study

6:30 pm

Streaming at stmatthewame.org/streaming

YouTube - @stmatthew336 Facebook Live - @stmatthewamechurch

Zoom Meeting ID 973 678 1217, Passcode 6781293

Call-In 929-205-6099, Meeting ID 973 678 1217

I. Where We Are In This Bible Study

- A. Looking at texts related to Epiphany, the appearance, revelation, and manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world.
 - 1. When did “the world” see him?
 - 2. When did Jesus make it a point to show himself to “the world?”
- B. Biblical “gaps” in Jesus’ life
 - 1. Born – Matthew & Luke
 - 2. Twelve – Luke 2:41-52
 - 3. Thirty – Luke 3:23
- C. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Crystal Newby-Reynolds
 - 1. “God’s Epiphany In Our Lives”
 - 2. How does God and/or Jesus show up? In what ways do we see God and/or Jesus?

II. Tonight’s Focus: The Baptism of the Lord Jesus

Mark 1:1-13 NIV

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”⁹ **At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.**¹⁰ **Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.**¹¹ **And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”**¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness,¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

III. Textual Observations

- A. The text also appears in Matthew 3:1-17 and Luke 3:1-22
- B. Do you know your John?
 - 1. **John the Baptist:** Jesus' forerunner, who baptized Him.

- a. He was called “the Baptist” because he was “the baptizer” of Jesus
 - b. A main tenet/core belief of the Baptist denomination is **Believer's Baptism (Credobaptism)**: Only those old enough to understand and declare their faith are baptized, typically by total immersion in water.
 - c. How is this different from what we believe?
 - 2. **John the Apostle**: Son of Zebedee, brother of James, one of the Twelve, traditionally the author of the Gospel of John, 1, 2, 3 John, and Revelation.
 - 3. **John Mark**: Cousin of Barnabas, companion of Paul and Peter, writer of the Gospel of Mark (Acts 12, 13, 15).
 - 4. **John, son of Annas**: A member of the Sanhedrin during Peter and John's trial (Acts 4:6).
 - 5. **John, father of Simon Peter**: Mentioned in John 1:42 and 21:15 (also called Jonah in Matthew 16:17).
- C. Points of Preparation
- 1. **Prophecy** - John Mark connects John the Baptist's role to the prophecies of Isaiah and Malachi
 - a. Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1
 - 2. **Preaching** – The focus of John the Baptist's preaching was repentance.
 - a. “to turn away from,” “to turn around”. Not a 360, but a 180!
 - b. The people's response to John's preaching:
 - Confession
 - Baptism

BAPTISM IS A VISIBLE SIGN THAT A PERSON HAS DECIDED TO CHANGE THEIR LIFE.

- 3. **Preparation** – John's purpose was to prepare the people for the presence and the preaching of Jesus
 - a. John the Baptist was clear: **“I am not the one!”**
- 4. **Presentation** – Jesus presented himself to John the Baptist to be baptized.
 - a. Why?
 - 1. To mark the beginning of his public ministry
 - 2. To mark the beginning of his mission to bring the message of salvation to all people
 - 3. To show humility

4. To demonstrate that he was God's son and that God approved of his mission
 5. To show support for John's ministry
 6. To give us an example to follow
- b. Which method of baptism is the **"right"** method?
1. Sprinkling
 2. Pouring
 3. Immersion



- c. What does the Bible say? What does it mean?
5. **Permission, Endorsement, and Confirmation**
 - a. The (misunderstood) connection between water baptism and the Holy Spirit
 6. What happened after Jesus' baptism?

IV. Lessons/Points to Ponder

1. Do you, like John, know your area of ministry?
2. Are you comfortable with your style?
3. How do you feel about not being **"the one?"**
4. Don't sweat the small stuff.
5. Get out!

V. Next Week – Another Epiphany-Related Text

VI. IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Mozell Viewing & Homegoing tomorrow morning.
2. The Membership Boot Camp Class is ON this Saturday
3. Watch the weather. We will probably pivot and worship online Sunday morning.

REMINDER:

26 THINGS TO STOP DOING IN 2026 (According to the Stoics)

1. Stop complaining.
2. Stop saying yes when you want to say no.
3. Stop worrying about things outside of your control.
4. Stop taking things personally.
5. Stop avoiding discomfort.
6. Stop hanging out with the wrong crowd.
7. Stop believing every thought and emotion.
8. Stop reacting to every emotion.
9. Stop wasting the morning.
10. Stop wanting more possessions.
11. Stop giving away your time.
12. Stop acting only for yourself.
13. Stop suffering imagined troubles.
14. Stop allowing distractions in.
15. Stop talking more than you listen.
16. Stop trying to control everything.
17. Stop tying your wellbeing to results.
18. Stop expecting more from others than from yourself.
19. Stop choosing the easy option.
20. Stop doing the inessential things.
21. Stop comparing yourself to others.
22. Stop trying to do everything on your own. Ask for help.
23. Stop looking for “the third thing.”
24. Stop seeking fame.
25. Stop fearing death.
26. Stop thinking you are going to live forever.



REV. JOHN WESLEY
JACKSON COMMISSION
ON AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY
AND CULTURE

CALL FOR ART

We are looking for church-appropriate submissions for display for our 2026 Black History Month Art Show. The theme is **Black Visual Expressions** with a focus on black artists and art featuring black subjects/figures. Any mediums (paintings, photography, textiles, etc.) or styles (figurative, abstract, landscape, etc.) are welcome. Artists and art lovers of all ages are encouraged to contribute and participate!

Please contact Merolyn Kelly by **Jan. 25th** for submission review and confirmation. Drop-off will be coordinated following first contact.

Phone: 973-420-0005
Email: mtkelly325@gmail.com

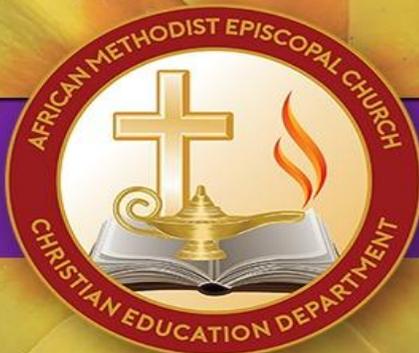
PLEASE BE SURE TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR SUBMISSION:

- Photo of the art
- Dimensions
- Artist's name
- Name of the piece
- Brief description of the piece
- Contact information

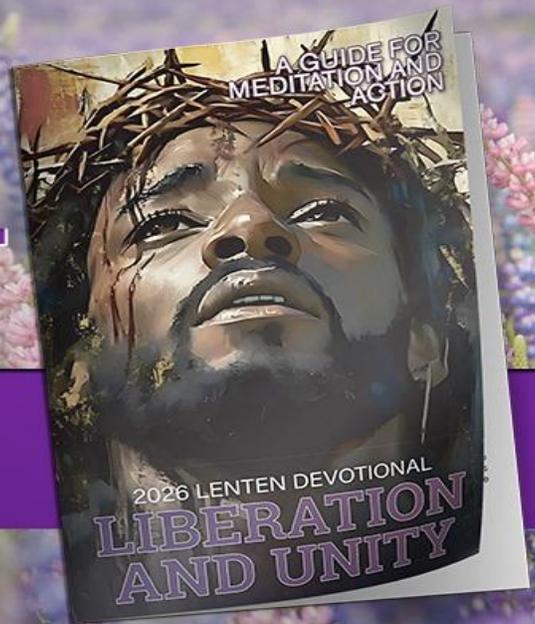


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SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DAY

Supper/Bible Study

February 17, 2026

6 PM - 7 : 45 PM
 6 pm - 6 : 45 pm - Pancake Supper
 6 : 45 pm & In-Person Bible Study

Why Pancakes?

Historically, "Shrove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday/Pancake Day was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients."



Donation -
 "What ever you are led to give"



SCAN HERE



TO RSVP OR @ <https://bit.ly/STMShrovePancakeStudy>



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REV. MELVIN E. WILSON
 PASTOR /TEACHER

DANIEL FAST

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FASTING

SCAN ME



"So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes." Daniel 9:3

Option 1
21-DAY FAST
 FEB 18TH
 MARCH 10TH

Option 2
40-DAY FAST
 FEB 18TH
 MARCH 29TH

Option 3
40-DAY FAST
 FEB 18TH
 MARCH 29TH
 6AM-6PM



100% NATURAL

**LENTEN
 SEASON
 2026**



PRAYER



FASTING

EMAIL HEALTHWELLNESS@STMATTHEWAME.ORG TO JOIN THE DANIEL FAST WHATSAPP GROUP

Sunday, March 8 @ 9 am



WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY CHORUS



Dr. Justen V. Seay, Conductor