

GOD VALIDATES YOUR LIFE

Matthew 3:1-17 CR Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21, 22; John 1:31-34

Matthew 3:11 "I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama - compared to him I'm a mere stagehand - will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. **12** He's going to clean house - make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned." **13** Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. **14** John objected, "I'm the one who needs to be baptized, not you!" **15** But Jesus insisted. "Do it. God's work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism." So John did it. **16** The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God's Spirit - it looked like a dove - descending and landing on him. **17** And along with the Spirit, a voice: "This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life." **THE MESSAGE**

God sent Holy Spirit down from Heaven to anoint and **validate** (prove) the ministry of Jesus as the Christ and the Word made flesh - as Immanuel - "God with us!"

Together John and Holy Spirit **validated** (prove) to the world, that Jesus was the One spoken of by the Prophet Isaiah. God put his seal of approval on the announcement by saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."

We see the cooperation between God and mankind to accomplish God's purpose.

Out of the mouth of two or three witnessed let a thing be established.

Jesus identified with us in every way as a human being.

His identification with us validated his humanity

That's why Jesus demanded that He be baptized over John's objections.

Joseph and Mary take their twelve-year-old Son from the village of Nazareth to the city of Jerusalem for the Passover Feast celebration! On their return home, they found Him missing! After three days of searching, "they found Him in the Temple", at Jerusalem, with the religious leaders hearing them and asking them questions! And all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and His answers!"

Look at the symbolism in this story.

Hid for three days and then seen again. Talking to the Church of His day.
Buried, Resurrected from the dead after three days and then speaking to His disciples!

Matthew 3:1 While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called "the Baptizer," was preaching in the desert country of Judea. **2** His message was simple and austere, like his desert surroundings: "Change your life. God's kingdom is here." **3** John and his message were authorized by Isaiah's prophecy: Thunder in the desert! Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight! **4** John dressed in a camel-hair habit tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild field honey. **5** People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear and see him in action. **6** There at the Jordan River those who came to confess their sins were baptized into a changed life. **7** When John realized that a lot of Pharisees and Sadducees were showing up for a baptismal experience because it was becoming the popular thing to do, he exploded: "Brood of snakes! What do you think you're doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to make any difference? **8** It's your life that must change, not your skin! **9** And don't think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as father. Being a descendant of Abraham is neither here nor there. Descendants of Abraham are a dime a dozen. **10** What counts is your life. Is it green and blossoming? Because if it's deadwood, it goes on the fire. THE MESSAGE

John 2:11 This act in Cana of Galilee was the first **sign** Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him. THE MESSAGE

John 4:54 This was now the second **sign** Jesus gave after having come from Judea into Galilee. THE MESSAGE

John 12:18 It was because they had spread the word of this latest God-**sign** that the crowd swelled to a welcoming parade. THE MESSAGE

Mark 16:20 And the disciples went everywhere preaching, the Master working right with them, validating the Message with indisputable **evidence**. THE MESSAGE

When you approve of something or someone it is because you deem that it is worthy due to some sign or evidence you have seen or heard.

You validate it or the person as being genuine and not false. True to its or their testimony or actions.

Approving is proving to the person or thing that it is pleasing in your sight.

VALIDATION NOTES

Numbers 6:23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, This is how you are to bless the People of Israel. Say to them,

24 God bless you and keep you,

25 God smile (**face shine**) on you and gift you,

26 God look you full in the face and make you prosper.

27 In so doing, they will place my name on the People of Israel - I will confirm (validate) It by blessing them." THE MESSAGE

See The Video

First: Validation *Philippians 4:8-9 NASV*

What he projected; he attracted

He found the truth and beauty in things and people.

He approved of them and it proved to them that they were worthy and pleasing.

He also found his own validation or self-worth in validating other. Reap what you sow.

Second: Discouragement *Deuteronomy 1:28-31*

He was discouraged when someone didn't believe his report or testimony of them.

When he wasn't being validated; he felt he must have been ugly, displeasing or not worthy of being approved.

All he kept hearing was "NEXT"

We need to stop seeing people as resources and start seeing them as Image Bearers.

Created in His Image; Christ in us.

He makes us worthy and approved; justified and righteous.

Third: He encouraged himself *1 Samuel 30:6*

Just like David he found a way to be validated once more.

He found a new way to reaffirm his gift; to bring out the best in people.

Genuine smiles from people as the photographer said.

He could smile at himself again and help others to smile again.

If affirming words were something rarely spoken in your home growing up; let me give you some tips on words and phrases that can brighten your own person eyes and life.

These words are easy to say to any person who comes into your life.

"I'm proud of you, Way to go, you did it, Magnificent, I knew you could do it,

What a good helper, You're very special to me, I trust you, What a treasure,

Hurray for you, Beautiful work, You're a real trooper, Well done, That's so creative,

You make my day, You're a joy, Give me a big hug, You're such a good listener,

You figured it out, I love you, You're so responsible, You remembered, You're the best,

You sure tried hard, I've got to hand it to you, I couldn't be prouder of you,

You light up my day, I'm praying for you, You're wonderful, I'm behind you,

You're so kind to your (brother/sister), You're God's special gift, I'm here for you."