

Empowered for Ministry

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

An Encounter with My Nephew: William J. Peycke, IV. _____

Our Church’s Vision: “Strengthening Families and Relationships Through the Love of Christ.”

“Baptism” in the Bible. _____

1. Baptism of Water: A Outward Sign of _____ and _____

(Luke 3:3 NIV) *He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

(Rom 6:4 NIV) *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

2. Baptism of Fire: An Inward Work of _____ or _____

(Your Choice)

(Luke 3:16-17 NIV) *. . . He [Jesus] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. {17} His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*

(Mal 3:3 NIV) *He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.*

(Luke 9:54 NIV) *When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?”*

3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit: An Inward Work of _____ and _____

(1 Cor 12:13 NIV) *For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.*

(Acts 1:8 NIV) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes. . .*

(Luke 3:21-22 NIV) *When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened {22} and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*

Examples of Empowerment in Luke 4:

(Luke 4:1 NIV) *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,*

(Luke 4:14 NIV) *Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.*

(Luke 4:18-19 NIV) *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, {19} to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

THREE WAYS TO EMPOWER OTHERS FOR MINISTRY

[The Three “A’s” Jesus Heard from His Father (cf. Nicolosi and Lewis)]

1. A _____ . _____

(Luke 3:22 NIV) *and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love . . .*

2. A _____ . _____

(Luke 3:22 NIV) *and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “. . . with you I am well pleased.”*

3. A _____ . _____

(Mat 17:5 NIV) *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”*

A Step Beyond Skills and Training = God’s _____ . _____

Sermon-based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 10, 2010

The Baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

Icebreaker: If baptized, share your own experience of baptism with your group.

1. John's the Baptist's baptism was a water baptism of repentance (verses 16 & 3). What one action might you take (have you taken) to produce fruit in keeping with your repentance? (See verses 10-14 for suggestions)
2. John was perceived by some to be the expected messiah (vs.15). Who was he really (see also verses 4-5)?
3. How can you emulate John's attitude toward Jesus in verse 16?
4. Who has been a John the Baptist in your life, one who has shown you the way and led you to Christ?
5. Imagine yourself in the crowd at the Jordan River. Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized by John the Baptist since he had no sins to confess?
6. John the Baptist mentions that Jesus will baptize with fire (16). How does fire relate to verse 17?
7. In what sense does fire refine? In what sense does fire consume? What's the difference?
8. What did Pastor Mark say about Jesus baptizing with the Holy Spirit?
9. What impact did the baptism of the Holy Spirit have on Jesus ministry? What impact does the Holy Spirit have on your ministry?
10. How can you, like John the Baptist, bear witness to what you are seeing?
11. In light of Pastor Mark's sermon, contemplate the powerful words of the Father from heaven in verse 22. Add to it the words in Matt. 17:5, "Listen to him." What do those words mean to you?
12. Your words are powerful, too. What opportunities can you think of when you can:
 - a. Express affection
 - b. Express admiration
 - c. Express affirmation
13. How have the above "three A's" helped you discover or affirm God's direction or calling in your life?

Prayer:

Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to be evident in the life of St. Paul's Church family in 2010.

Pray for one another.