

## January 8, 2023 / Sermon: “Bow Down”

### OUTLINE

#### **Me...**

- The older I get, the harder it is to get back up when I fall down / I am “down”! (Don’t miss the double meaning; physical, emotional and spiritual.)
- Falling down, feeling down and bowing down are all different...
  - Falling down is usually accidental (physical)
  - Feeling down is based on circumstances and choice (emotional)
  - Bowing down is intentional; act of worship (spiritual).

#### **You...**

- What do you want to see God do in your life in 2023?
- In church history, this Sunday is designated to celebrate and remember the wisemen’s visit (Epiphany) and the Baptism of Jesus.
- In early February, historians recognize Jesus’ circumcision and dedication in the Temple.
- **Epiphany (a church season)...** Epiphany is an ancient church festival celebrating the magi’s visit to the Christ Child (Matthew 2:1-12). It is kept on January 6. Epiphany is also called “Three Kings’ Day” and “Twelfth Day” —the latter name because January 6 is twelve days after Christmas.
- The word epiphany means “manifestation” or “revelation.” In this church season, we celebrate the manifestation (revelation) of Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the magi.
- New series... “Citizens of Heaven”; royal servants/disciples in an upside-down kingdom; a kingdom not of this world.

#### **God’s Word to us... chronological order!**

##### **Read Luke 2:21-24**

- First born boys were always named after their father except...
- Purification rights for the mother lasted 33 days (for a boy) after circumcision or 66 days (for a girl) (Lev. 12:2-8); turtledoves and pigeons a sign of non-wealthy status. (One for burnt offering, one for sin offering)
- Consecrate / present to the Lord; Exodus 13:2... “Dedicate to me every firstborn among the Israelites. The first offspring to be born, of both humans and animals, belongs to me.”
- Purification happened through sacrifice; Mary (and Joseph) presented themselves to the Lord.

- Dedicated Jesus to the Lord!? Dedicating himself to himself and back to the people!

**We “bow down” to the things / people we are dedicated to... (we present ourselves to the things and people we are committed to)**

**Read Matthew 2:11**

- Revelation of Jesus as King of the Jews, awaited Messiah to people outside the chosen people/ the “family”.
- Traveling so far was an act of belief and hope. Gifts given was an act of honor. Bowing down was an act of respect.
- The entire visit was an act of **worship**.

**We “bow down” to the things and people we worship...**

**Read Matthew 3:13-17**

- John is baptizing in the wilderness; ceremonial cleansing; he was announcing that people’s sins were forgiven by God; **Luke 3:3...** Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.
- Fulfill all righteousness / carry out all that God requires... There were two reasons for Jesus to say it was time to “fulfill all righteousness.” First, the baptism confirmed Jesus as the Messiah. Second, it confirmed John as the forerunner to the Messiah. Both Jesus and John were acting in fulfillment of prophecy. Scripture prophesied that the Messiah would have the Spirit of God resting on Him (Isaiah 11:2) and He would be God’s Son (Isaiah 9:6; Mark 1:1). At Jesus’ baptism, both the Holy Spirit and the Father affirm that Jesus was the Messiah. Baptism (from the Greek word baptize, which means “to immerse”) was a way for a person to identify with another person or group. It signified that the person being baptized was connected to the baptizer. When Jesus said it was time to fulfill all righteousness, it seemed that He understood there needed to be a formal, public connection of Jesus to John and vice versa. John’s baptism of Jesus was an affirmation that John’s ministry was in accordance with God’s revealed plan. If John’s ministry was authentic, then the people should not ignore the One whom John was proclaiming: Jesus the Messiah. Jesus sought out John’s baptism because John was proclaiming the coming Messiah, and Jesus was that Messiah. By associating Himself with John and John’s message, Jesus affirmed both. He also showed the world that He, Jesus, was the prophesied Messiah. When the Holy Spirit and the Father made themselves known at this event, it showed that Jesus was the Messiah, and it affirmed the truth of John’s message.
- The voice is God and the dove is the Holy Spirit and Jesus in the middle!

- God is pleased with His sons' actions to "bow down" in baptism to launch his public ministry; his dedication to God's mission; his commitment to God's purpose and plan.

**In our baptism, we demonstrate our allegiance by "bowing down" to the one who has changed our hearts; to the one who has saved us! Our savior and king, Jesus!**

### **Application - You (personal)**

- We bow down to... ideologies, doctrines, bank account, worry, fear, traditions, addictions, emotions, unhealthy choices, schedules, opportunities, sports, etc.
- Who or what are you "bowing down" to... What changes do you need to make in your life for the new year?
- **Present / dedicate...** how will you present yourself to God? How will you dedicate/rededicate your life in service to the Lord? / **"Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)**
- **Worship...** how will you worship the Lord differently in this new year? What changes need to happen in your heart? **"Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshipping him with holy fear and awe." (Hebrews 12:28)**
- **Baptism...** **"For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26-28)**

### **Application - We (the church)**

- "If it has been revealed to us, should it not then be contagious?" Newsboys, Good Stuff

### **Sticky Statement...**

It's been revealed to you that Jesus is the Savior, Messiah and King. Bow down and worship Him alone!