



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

January 10, 2021

The Baptism of the Lord

Lectionary: 21

Gospel Mk 1:7-11

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Spiritual Reflection: Sometimes it is good to see how one part of the Gospel story connects with another part. Archbishop Fulton Sheen connects the character of John the Baptist with the Last Supper in an unusual way. He writes: “John considered himself unworthy to untie the shoes of Our Lord, but Our Lord would surpass him in humility as He would wash the feet of the Apostles.”

Spiritual Questions:

1. What does the above quote say about Jesus’ humility?
2. What does it say about our role in Salvation history?
3. What does it say about God’s love for us?
4. Why do you think John was so humble?
5. How did John’s humility help aid his mission in life?