



# Breaking Open the Word

## - 2022 -

**January 9, 2022**

**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."

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### **Spiritual Reflections:**

In her book: *A Contemplative Reading of the Gospel Mathew: The Journey Toward Hope*," Scripture Scholar Elena Bosetti writes the following: *John was not a pompous, arrogant preacher who spoke from on high to those beneath him and of whom it was not permitted to ask questions. Luke makes us see that the people questioned him. And the austere prophet of the desert had ears for everyone: for the crowd, but more particularly for the publicans—kept at a distance by the spiritual leaders of Judaism—and even for soldiers.*

### **Spiritual Questions:**

1. How do you think John the Baptist was able to remain humble despite the fact that his birth was announced by an angel and people expected great things from him?
2. Why did the Jewish religion at the time of John the Baptist feel that it was important to exclude people?
3. Why do people exclude people today?
4. Who are the people that we need to reach out today?
5. How do you tell people about Jesus? Would people say your style is similar to John the Baptist?