



# Sermon Discussion Guide

## THE BELOVED SON OF THE FATHER

**Matthew 3:16**

Pastor Kevin, 10/30/22

*Big Idea:* In his baptism, both Jesus's *identity* (Christ, the Son of God) and *mission* (to save sinners) are revealed to us.

1. Kevin said that knowing Christ better *is* application. Why is that?
2. For some, meditation on Christ is further down the list of things we feel we need to know. What other things might a church mistakenly emphasize over a deeper understanding of the Person & work of Christ?
3. Coming off of our last series in Revelation, Kevin said, "What is the most important antidote to everything that can befall you as a church, to every struggle that you may have this morning as a Christian? See more of God. Know more of God and his glory. Get a glorious glimpse of the one who sits on the throne (...) and then the Lamb that comes that is worthy to open the scroll." Looking back on your walk with the Lord, how has a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ helped you navigate the Christian life?
4. "John was not the point, he was the pointer." Who has the Lord placed in *your* life to point them to himself?<sup>1</sup>
5. What do you think about when you hear the word "mission"?
6. Kevin mentioned four ways we see Jesus fulfilling his role as the new Israel. Can you name any of them?<sup>2</sup> Unlike Israel, Christ fulfilled all of these things perfectly. How do these parallels with Israel help us to understand his mission better?
7. Christ's mission was ultimately the salvation of his people. How does Christ's mission help us understand our mission? How can we avoid what Kevin called "mission creep"?<sup>3</sup>
8. How does meditation on the Trinity and the work of Christ inform how we pray?<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John's ministry was unique, and yet there is peripheral application here for all Christians. Are we pointing others to Christ or to something else?

<sup>2</sup> (1) Flight from Egypt/Exodus of Israel, (2) Jesus baptism/crossing through the Red Sea, (3) Jesus temptation in the wilderness 40 days/Israel wandering in the wilderness 40 years, (4) Sermon on the Mount/10 Commandments from Mount Sinai.

<sup>3</sup> That is, missions that are secondary to the Church's primary mission becoming the main thing.

<sup>4</sup> Trinitarian help for discussion: The Westminster Confession of Faith says, "In the unity of the Godhead there be three Persons of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son" (WCF 2.3).