

**JESUS NEEDED TO BE BAPTISED BY JOHN**  
**TO FULFIL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS**  
**MATTHEW CH3:1-17**

**RE-CAP**

- Ch1:1-17 - JESUS is the fulfilment of God's promises to both Abraham and David!  
Ch1:18-27 - Joseph, the “RIGHTEOUS MAN!”  
Ch2:1-12 - Getting JESUS' identity leads to worship!

Matthew uses the term “fulfil/fulfilled” which occurs 18 times in the Gospel – Ch1:22, Ch2:15, Ch2:17, Ch2:23, Ch3:15, Ch4:14, Ch5:17, Ch5:18, Ch8:17, Ch12:17, Ch13:14, Ch13:35, Ch21:4, Ch24:34, Ch26:54, Ch26:56, Ch27:9 and Ch27:35.

**ILLUSTRATION**

Princess Anne visited Swansea Prison on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016, and a couple of months prior to her visit, the Prison had some other visitors! These were not Royalty, but part of the “The Royal Protection Team” visiting the Prison, preparing for the arrival of the Princess. Their job was to carry out a re-con of the Prison, and develop a plan, that would not be changed! There would be precision timing, only security checked personnel were permitted to be present, bodyguards would be with the Princess throughout, and certain areas would be off limits! In the same way that a team was sent ahead to prepare for the Royal visit, John the Baptist is sent ahead of JESUS!

**THE VOICE! VI-6**

Who is John? John is a relative of Jesus (Luke Ch1:36) and part of the priesthood (Luke Ch1:5-10) and nicknamed “the baptist” because he is calling people to repentance and to be baptised (Matt Ch3:1-2)! He has a particular mission, with a specific message, regarding the chosen Messiah!

Why is he dressed like he is? Although, being part of the priesthood and therefore could have accessed the privileges associated with the priesthood, he chooses to live a very simple lifestyle! Dressed in a very similar way to an Old Testament prophet called Elijah (2 Kings Ch1:8), John lives a radical lifestyle!

Why are people coming to him? To confess their sins and to be baptised, in readiness, preparation for the coming King and His Kingdom. Baptism illustrated a readiness for the Messiah to bring forgiveness.

### **THE VIPERS! V7-12**

V7 - Who are the Pharisees and the Sadducees? They are the “bad guys”, religious leaders, but not born again! They are facing their worst nightmare, because instead of the people coming to them, in Jerusalem at the Temple, they are travelling miles, into the wilderness, to confess their sins, personal and national, and being baptised!

V9 – John makes them aware that heritage and nationality will not help them getting into the Kingdom!

V10 - John also gives them a warning, what is the warning all about? Judgement!

V12 - What is the different baptism? This baptism involves power from the Holy Spirit.

### **THE VERDICT! V13-17**

V13 - Why does JESUS need to get baptised? Jesus' baptism by John, authenticates John's ministry

V15 - What does JESUS' baptism represent? What does it mean to “fulfil” all righteousness? Jesus is ready to comply with all God's righteous precepts! Jesus is willing to “save his people from their sins” Ch1:21. Jesus is ready to start his ministry and so begins the journey to the cross.

V17 - God has been silent for 400 years, what is His verdict? God now speaks and because He knows that Jesus is willing to fulfil all righteousness, He loves His Son and is well pleased with Him!

### **APPLICATION**

Tell JESUS how much you love Him!