



## Questions:

1. Why would Jesus need to be baptized?
2. Why do you think Jesus asked to be baptized? Why do you think John initially declined the request?
3. The baptism narrative in Matthew suggests that Jesus had a growing awareness of his role? What is Matthew trying to tell us about his divinity and about his humanity?
4. What does it mean to know that you are a beloved child of God? What does baptism provide you? What does it require of you?

## EPISODE TITLE: "The Call"

### Wholly Human, Holy Divine, Episode 1

#### Featured Guest: Mark Davis

Ordained in 1996, Pastor Davis holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Theology, Ethics and Culture from the University of Iowa and a Doctor of Ministry from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Virginia. He is the author of two books: "Talking About Evangelism," (May 2006), and "Left Behind and Loving It (Fall 2011), and he blogs intensive Bible studies regularly at <http://leftbehindandlovingit.blogspot.com>. He is a music lover who sings and plays jazz saxophone. Mark and his wife, Chris, have four children ranging in age from 12 to 23.

#### Pneuma Divina Scripture: Matthew 3

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

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