

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK 4 (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SEC. SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: RELIGION AND NATIONAL VALUES EDUCATION

CLASS: JSS2

TOPIC: THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Meaning of Baptism

Baptism refers to the act of immersing a person into water or sprinkling the person with water as a form of public, personal identification with Christ. It is regarded as a symbolic washing away of sins and serves a transition into a new life in God. The practise of baptism is a part of the Jewish custom and signifies death to sin and coming alive for a righteous living.

The Forerunner of Jesus (Mark 1:1-8, Luke 3:1-10)

A forerunner is somebody who comes before another person and brings an advance sign of the person coming later. He/she lays the foundation and prepares the way for the person who is coming. The forerunner of Jesus Christ was John the Baptist. He preached in the wilderness, was clothed with camel's hair, wore a girdle of skin around his waist, and ate locust and wild honey. He preached to the people to repent of their sins and baptized them in the River Jordan.

People asked John if he was the expected Messiah and he gave them a negative response. He told them he was only preparing the way for Jesus Christ the Saviour who will baptize them with the Holy Spirit. He also emphasized that the one coming after him was mightier than him and that he was unworthy to even untie the lace of his sandals.

The Baptism of Jesus(Mat 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22)

Jesus had heard from the people who travelled from Nazareth that a certain man known as John the Baptist was preaching atonement for sins by the River Jordan. The Holy Spirit then led Jesus to the River Jordan to be baptized by this man. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he immediately recognized him as the Saviour and Messiah he had been preaching about.

Initially, John objected to the idea of baptizing Jesus because he felt he needed to be baptized by Jesus who had no sin. However, on Jesus' insistence and to fulfil all righteousness, John baptized him. After Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove on Jesus. A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased".

The Significance of the Baptism of Jesus Christ

1. It signifies the anointing and consecration of Jesus for his work.
2. The voice from heaven marked the first confirmation of Jesus as the Son of God and Messiah.
3. It endowed him with power for his life's work.

4. The baptism revealed the humility of Jesus as he allowed a lesser person baptize him.
5. His baptism teaches us as believers that we ought to be baptized as well.
6. It also indicated that Jesus' mission on earth will mostly benefit sinners.

HOMEWORK

1. What is baptism?
2. Define the term "forerunner" and briefly explain why John the Baptist was seen as the forerunner of Jesus Christ.
3. State 3 significance of Jesus' baptism.