

## GOD REVEALED

Last Sunday was January 6th, the end of the twelve days after Christmas. It is the day that tradition tells us the Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem to worship and give their gifts to the baby Jesus, the King of the Jews. It also marks the beginning of the season of Epiphany begins, a time to reflect on the nature of God, as revealed in Jesus.

The first two chapters of the Gospel according to Matthew provide a brief description of the Jesus's birth and the story of the Wise Men. Then in the third chapter, Matthew starts to tell us about John the Baptizer. There is no mention of the roughly thirty years between Jesus' birth and his encounter with John. In Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew describes Jesus' meeting with John. Out of nowhere, Jesus came to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John does not want to do this and says "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus responds "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." In other words, Jesus says "Baptize me because it is God's will that you do this." With this, John gives in and does as Jesus asks.

But I find myself asking "WHY was it God's will?" And, in this season of Epiphany, I find myself also asking what this story reveals about God's nature. Why would the Son of God, a man without sin, want to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins? The answer, I believe, is the same as the reason that God decided to be born to peasants in a remote corner of the world. God did not come to be human to live as a King among men. God came to live as one of us. Jesus did not need to repent of his sins. But, by being baptized, Jesus expressed His solidarity with us, His oneness with us. The nature of our God is not to just sit on a throne in heaven and judge us. Our God loves us so much that he enters into our world to

live as one of us. Our God loves us so much that he who was without sin humbled himself to enter to Jordan river and be baptized as one of us. The nature of our God is not to be remote. Our God has revealed himself in Jesus as a God that loves us so much that He humbles himself in every way to be one of us. That is a part of the nature of the God we worship. I invite all of you to "ponder" the nature of the God you worship just as Mary did the words of the shepherds in the stable. (Luke 2:19)

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