

St. John's EBCs, Everyday Bible Conversations!

EBC 3, 2, 1! – On Location in 2025! Leading to Worship Sunday, January 12, 2025

Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

EBC focuses on bringing the Bible into our Everyday Lives, emphasizing God's Everyday presence by finding connections in our physical world! EBC also has a video component on the St. John's website and St. John's YouTube channel. This week, we look at Jesus' baptismal story as told by Luke, and notice: who is God talking to? Click here: <https://youtu.be/nTBMrfsTkEU> Welcome to this week's EBC 3,2,1! Three points, two questions, and one action step!

Three Points

- In Luke 3, we hear that John is teaching the crowds, when some begin to wonder if John is the Messiah.
- John assures the crowd that he is not. "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worth to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Luke 3:16)
- When Jesus himself is baptized, the heavens open, and God speaks: "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22)

Two Questions

- Why do you think the crowd jumps to conclusions – wondering if John is the Messiah? How often in our Everyday Lives do we jump to conclusions about what God is telling us or asking of us? How do we "tell the difference" between God's teaching, and our own assumptions or even desires about what God has in mind?
- In Luke (and also in Mark, but not in Matthew), God speaks directly to Jesus at his baptism, saying "**You** are my Son. . . with you I am well pleased." Have you ever stopped to think that God has claimed you in baptism, and that God is *pleased* with you? Is it hard to feel deserving of the thought that God is pleased with you? Why and why not?

Action Step

- Rest assured this week, that God has claimed you as his own, and that he is pleased with you! Then, live the joy of that knowledge!

Don't like these questions? Do these verses say something different to you? Great! What it is?

And as always, you are encouraged to find a friend (or two or many) and take an EBC coffee break! Find 15-25 minutes somewhere in the week and share your faith. Have fun finding God this week in your Everyday Life!