



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

January 11, 2015

Narrative Lectionary

Matthew 3:1-17



"I'm Proud of You!" Object: A photo album.

I am sure that you will recognize what I have in my hand. It is a photo album. Most parents have several photo albums which are full of pictures taken of their children as they were growing up. We have always been very proud of our children and everything they did. We took pictures of them in school, at church, pictures of them playing, at Christmas time, on their birthdays, and many other occasions. We were proud of them as they grew up and we are proud of them today.

Do you think God was proud of His son, Jesus?

I know he was, because the Bible tells us that he was. When Jesus was baptized, the Bible tells us that there was a voice from heaven that said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Why do you think God was pleased with His son?

I think that one reason God was proud of his Son is that the Bible tells us that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men." It makes a father proud to watch his children grow in maturity and become wiser. And, of course, a father wants his child to be well-liked and respected by other people. I think the main reason that God was proud of Jesus is that Jesus always did what his Father sent him to do. Do you always do what your father or mother tells you to do? I doubt if any of us could answer "yes" to that question -- but Jesus could. Jesus said "I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." (John 6:38) That would make a Father proud, wouldn't it?

Like a good Father - or a good Mother - God is there to help us do all the other things he asks us to do - things like loving our brothers and sisters - and forgiving and helping one another - and sharing the good things that he gives us with those who are in need.

Wouldn't you like to be the kind of child that would cause God to look down from heaven, as he did with Jesus, and say, "My child, I am proud of you?" I would like to be like that - and every day I try to be, knowing that God loves me and is there to help me be the kind of child he wants me to be.

Father, we want to be the kind of children you want us to be. Help us each day to do the things that are pleasing to you. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Alleluia (Matt. 3:17)

Word Search Puzzle

W	Z	C	J	R	T	D	M	O	V	V	I	X	V	E
P	M	R	O	E	D	D	M	P	N	O	S	O	C	N
S	L	P	H	T	S	O	Q	E	T	X	U	I	I	S
D	Y	E	N	A	N	E	V	N	T	I	O	K	O	D
Y	W	D	A	W	I	S	Z	E	W	V	R	F	M	P
M	F	E	H	S	U	B	E	D	F	I	S	I	M	Q
G	V	Z	P	C	E	E	N	E	V	A	E	H	P	J
V	N	I	R	S	L	D	J	E	S	U	S	P	O	S
P	M	T	H	I	F	U	L	F	I	L	L	R	Z	K
K	X	P	L	N	Y	O	Q	U	H	K	D	B	J	X
S	C	A	Q	F	V	Q	T	Q	X	A	Z	Z	J	R
Z	G	B	M	E	W	H	X	M	N	N	L	H	Y	Q

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| Galilee | Opened | Jordan |
| Heaven | Dove | Water |
| Voice | John | Fulfill |
| Love | Pleased | Baptized |
| Jesus | Son | Spirit |

BIBLE ART: Have the children cut a Bible shape out of construction paper and then cut a smaller shape of a Bible out of white paper. Write Matthew 3:17 on the Bible art and put gold glitter around the edges of the Bible.

BIBLE MOBILE: Make a large blue cloud for the children to glue a little cotton around the edges and hand out colored markers for children to trace or draw Matthew 3:17. Hang the cloud from a pretty hanger or let children wrap yarn around a hanger to make a Mobile! Other smaller puffs of cottony clouds could be hung from the hanger as well.

CLOUDS TREAT: Give each child some colored or white marshmallows as a treat and talk about the voice that came out of the heavens in our story! If teacher desires more of a "mess" at the table, the children can be given a toothpick to poke into their marshmallows and dip it in chocolate or some other topping.

JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS MATT. 3, MARK 1, LUKE 3



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