"The Ministry of John the Baptist" Pt.4 (Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:18-23)

I. The Ministry of John the Baptist

A. The Uniqueness of John the Baptist

1. The Uniqueness of his _____

* He has two tasks:

a. To ______ the people for the Messiah;

b. To ______ the Messiah to the people.

2. The Uniqueness of his _____

* What was his message?

***Repentance** is a condition for salvation which specifically involves a ______ about anything that you originally thought could save you, and instead ______ becomes the sole ______ of your faith.

3. The Uniqueness of his _____

*The Lord would ______ Israel as a fruitless tree unless the Jews ______ and started bearing "the ______ of repentance." (v. 9, cf. 6:43-45; 13:6-9; Isa. 5:1-7; 10:33-34; 66:24; Mal. 4:1)

* What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

* What is the baptism of fire?

4. The Uniqueness of the _____

* The baptism of Jesus Christ served as a public ______ that He was the anticipated Promised ______

* This event in the life of Christ marks the ______ of His public earthly ministry.

* When Jesus came to John for baptism, John immediately tried to ______or ______ Him.

*What did John recognize about Jesus?

John recognized the ______of the One who presented Himself for baptism.

7 Baptisms in scripture:

* Why was Jesus baptized by John? (6 reasons)

1) To _____ all righteousness (Mt 3:15)

2) To be identified with John's ______ - the Promised ______ is at hand (Mt. 3:1-2).

3) To be an official ______ to the people that this is the ______.

4) To identify Himself with the _____ remnant in Israel.

5) To identify Himself with ______ whom He came to save (2 Cor. 5:21).

6) To be ______ by the Holy Spirit of God to fulfill the functions of the messianic office (Acts 10:48)

* Jesus then received ______ from His Father

* What does this mean to you?