

## The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S5E1

### God's Six Fold Formula For Testing - (Matthew 3:13-21)

**Description – What do water and testing have in common in the Bible? Join us today as we begin to examine the beginning of Jesus's earthly ministry.**

Following along in our CSB harmony of the gospels, we're going to be in section #1.

The big difference between Throckmorton's harmony of the gospels and the CSB harmony of the gospels is that Throckmorton is only the synoptic gospels, and is the NRSV of the bible.

Morton Throckmorton: Gospel Parallels

<https://www.amazon.com/Gospel-Parallels-Comparison-Synoptic-Standard/dp/0840774842/>

CSB Harmony Of The Gospels:

<https://www.amazon.com/CSB-Harmony-Gospels-Steven-Cox/dp/1087768462/>

Today we're in section #1, in Matthew 3, on the Baptism of Jesus.

How do we interpret water in the Bible? (Credit where credit is due, Pastor first heard this from Marty Solomon, and the Bema Podcast, [www.bemadischipleship.org](http://www.bemadischipleship.org) )

#### **Matthew 3:13-21**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John allowed him to be baptized.

<sup>16</sup> When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.

<sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."

This account is recorded in both Mark and Luke. One distinctive in the gospel of Luke is found in **Luke 3:21**, where it says, "<sup>21</sup> When all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized. **As he was praying**, heaven opened,"

Luke points out that Jesus is praying, and that's when the heavens opened.

#### **Genesis 1:1-2**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Nothing good is happening, there's chaos, and nothingness. All of the sudden you're introduced to the Holy Spirit, who's hovering over the waters.

The Hebrew word for Spirit, "ruach," can be translated as "breath, wind, or Spirit"

So there's chaos, nothingness, and then God speaks, and brings order. To the Jew, large bodies of water represented chaos. The sea of galilee, the mediterranean sea, storms could come up in a moment, and capsize boats, killing people.

Here's a six step paradigm that we're looking at through the Bible:

1. Chaos
2. Water
3. Spirit over water
4. God's voice speaking
5. Expected order of God
  - a. When God speaks, he's bringing order
6. Testing

We see this paradigm from the very beginning, Genesis 1 - 3.

This is a pattern that we see repeat in scripture.

Genesis 7 - 9: The account of Noah

1. Entire world is wicked - Chaos
2. The flood - Water
3. Wind over the water - Spirit over the water
4. Gen 9 - God speaks and creates a covenant with Noah
5. The expected order
6. Testing - Noah gets drunk and fails.

Exodus account:

1. Israel in slavery in Egypt - Chaos
2. Parting of the red sea - Water
  - a. This water stands in the way of God's expected order
3. Wind from the east, pushes the water back - Spirit over the water
4. God speaks to Moses, gives him the Law on Sinai
5. God's order - giving of the Law
6. Numbers 20 - Testing of Moses
  - a. On two occasions Moses is to draw water from the rock
  - b. The first time he's told to strike the rock

- c. The second time God tells Moses to speak to the rock, but instead, Moses strikes the rock in anger at the people.
- d. Because he disobeyed God, Moses is not allowed to enter the promised land.

If we're not careful we can end up just like Moses. God will not share His Glory with anyone. Moses fails this test.

#### Crossing the Jordan River - Joshua 3

1. The country is in chaos - bunch of people groups making sacrifices to false Gods and idols.
2. The Jordan river is the barrier between them and the order of the land.
3. The Spirit of God blows over the water and the Jordan river piles up into a heap.
4. God speaks - Tells the people to remember Him, get 12 stones from the river.
5. The people bring the order of God to the land
6. Testing - They do great until the sin of Achan, and fail the test. They begin a downward spiral that leads to them living in chaos in the land, worshipping false gods and idols of the people of the land.

#### Peter walking on water:

1. The storm on the sea of galilee - the chaos
  - a. The disciples are in a boat struggling with the storm and the chaos
2. The water - the sea of Galilee
3. They don't look and see the Spirit over the water, but they look and see Jesus walking on the water.
4. God speaks - "Have courage, don't be afraid..."
5. The order of God
6. Testing: Peter getting out of the boat to walk to Jesus.

#### Jesus's Baptism - (Matthew 3)

1. Israel oppressed and dominated by Rome - Chaos
2. The Jordan river - water, place of baptism
3. Spirit over the water - the Spirit descending "like a dove."
4. "This is my beloved Son..." - God speaking
  - a. Bringing 2 OT verses together
  - b. Psalm 2:7
  - c. Isaiah 42:1
5. The order - We see all three figures of the Trinity here at the baptism of Jesus.
  - a. Jesus now has a gameplan to carry out the work the Father has given him. (John 17:4)
6. The testing: Immediately after Jesus's baptism he's driven out to the wilderness BY THE SPIRIT to be tempted by Satan. (Matthew 4).