

## MARK 1:9-11

## AS GOD PLEASES

<sup>9</sup> *At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

The Messiah was supposed to be the Son of David, not just genealogically but also in stature and military might. And being of the House of David he would be from Judea, if not Jerusalem itself. So what's this about a carpenter's son from Nazareth in Galilee of the Gentiles? And why should he be baptized by some hoary prophet for the forgiveness of sin? At least he should be anointed with fire and power rather than a dove. This does not make sense. But then again, there was the voice from heaven.

Once again we see God revealed as the God of surprises. The Son of God is one who identifies with the humble and the human. His identification with human beings is not only seen in his birth into a common family, but also in his submission to the baptism needed by all people for the forgiveness of sin. The Divine is witnessed in the tearing open of heaven. The power to recreate is revealed through the dove, reminiscent of the Spirit brooding over creation in Genesis. He is God's Son and God is pleased because he is conforming to God's plan.

Thank God that he demonstrates that he pleases to use broken and weak humanity to establish his kingdom. Not many of us would qualify as a David, but all of us are sinners in need of forgiveness. The Good News is that God's brooding creative Spirit can find a home in us and empower us to participate in his redemption of the world.

**Father, thank you for honoring human beings by having your Son take on our likeness and showing us the way to please you. Thank you for the privilege of participating in your plan of redemption of the world. Amen.**