



Pastor Hanke's Blog

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Let It Be So Now

Bible Reference: Matthew 3:13-17

When it snows, my kids get out their random snow gear; they have a few pieces here and there. They have discovered, however, that that dad has more than just random gear—he has all the gear. See, as a youth pastor I had to be prepared for snow, and as such I became very familiar with the slopes, skiing & snowboarding. But when my ankles began to hurt too bad, my skiing time quickly ended. Fast forward to last year when Abby was invited to an ice skating party. She was so excited, but I was afraid to take her knowing I might have to get out on the ice again and my ankles would hurt for weeks. This year, in just a few short weeks, Jacob and I will hit the slopes for an event he has been invited to. I thought that part of my life was over, but I find myself doing it again—in skates or skies—for sake of my children.

This is as close as I can get when trying to relate to what Jesus did for us when He was baptized. For me to skate or ski again is me doing something that hurts for the sake of my kids. But what about Jesus and His baptism? He didn't need to get baptized, did He? This was John the Baptist's question as well. John wanted to stop Jesus from getting baptized and instead have Jesus baptize him. When we look at the crucifixion, while it is challenging to see Jesus go through the pain and suffering, it is easier for us to understand why His death was necessary. The baptism, however, can be confusing for us as we try to understand why Jesus needed to do it.

This weekend we take time to look at the Baptism of Jesus. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be baptized? Why did John struggle to understand it? What does it mean for us? This is the powerful beginning to Jesus' ministry. We will look at the connections from the prophecies in the past and beauty of baptism for our future.

Peace,

Pastor Will