

## BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Matthew 3:1 to 4:11



The Bible tells us very little of what happened from the time that the little boy Jesus came back to Nazareth until the time that the man Jesus began the great work of preaching and teaching and healing that he had come to the world to do.

The first thing that we are told about him is what happened in to-day's lesson. His cousin, the brave, good John the Baptist, was preaching down by the Jordan River, and many people were going out to hear him. He was telling them of Jesus, and that they must believe in him.

And one day Jesus himself came to John's great meeting. Jesus wanted always to do exactly what God's people were expected to do, and all those who believe on God are asked to be baptized. This is to show that they believe that he can wash away their sins and make their hearts pure and good, just as water washes our bodies and makes them clean. So Jesus was baptized by John, although he had no sins to wash away, and at once God's Spirit, in the form of a dove, came down from heaven while a voice said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

When we are to do some great thing, we sometimes have