

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

January 12, 2020 • Baptism of the Lord • Matthew 3:13-17

Well Pleased

This reading from Matthew is short and to the point. Jesus wants to be baptized, and John believes it to be inappropriate. Jesus wins out, and John baptizes him. When Jesus comes up from the water, his real identity is revealed to all. He is the beloved, God's Son, and God is well pleased with him.

There is a lesson in this Gospel for all of us. When your child was baptized, his real identity was also announced and celebrated. He, too, is a son of God. She, too, is God's daughter. They are beloved, and they please God very much. It is up to us parents to help our children understand that they please God just by being who God created them to be.

Being a parent today is a monumental job. We try to raise our youngsters to discover, develop, and treasure their own uniqueness while they are surrounded by a culture that wants to impose its own criteria of what is special and worth prizing. Because of this, we need to continually find ways to remind our children of how loved they are and how precious they are to God.

At the same time, we need to name for them the individual qualities we see in them that make them special. Do they have a great sense of humor? Do they listen well? Do they keep confidences? Perhaps they easily befriend many different kinds of children. Focus on qualities and not accomplishments. Try not to rely on grades in school or sports successes as your only affirmations.

Finding and naming your child's gifts is a lot easier to do when you can name and appreciate your own. When we feel secure in who we are, when we can name our own gifts, we are going to be much more comfortable helping our children name their own.

When we are certain of how precious we are in God's eyes, it will be much easier to convince our children of how precious they are.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Have each family member mention one good quality for each of the other family members.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Name some of your good qualities. Where did they come from? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?