



Jan.13, 2019 [Lk. 3: 15-16, 21-22](#) & Is: 40: 1-5, 9-11

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Stone, Naomi. [Mystery of the Universe](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [On Blessed and Cursed Consciousness](#)

[New Melleray Monastery Sunday Homilies](#)

[God's Story: John the Baptist](#)

ENTERING THE SCENE:

Fr. Rolheiser says: Let's begin with the positive, a blessed consciousness: We see this in Jesus, in how he perceived and in how he judged. His was a blessed consciousness. As the gospels describe it, at his baptism, the heavens opened and God's voice was heard to say: "This is my blessed one, in whom I take delight." And, it seems, for the rest of his life Jesus was always in some way conscious of his Father saying that to him: "You are my blessed one!" As a consequence, he was able to look out at the world and say: "Blessed are you when you are poor, or when you are persecuted, or suffering in any way. You are always blessed, no matter your circumstance in life." He knew his own blessedness, felt it, and, because of that, could operate out of a blessed consciousness, a consciousness that could look out and see others and the world as blessed."

This is what we are included in when we also were baptized.

Lk. 3: 15 The people were full of **anticipation**, wondering in their hearts

whether John might be the **Messiah**. 16 John answered them all by saying: "I am **baptizing** you in **water**, but there is one to come who is **mightier** than I. I am not fit to **loosen** his **sandal strap**. He will **baptize** you in the **Holy Spirit** and in **fire**."

7 His winnowing-fan is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' 18 And he proclaimed the good news to the people with many other exhortations too. 19 But Herod the tetrarch, censured by John for his relations with his brother's wife Herodias and for all the other crimes he had committed, 20 added a further crime to all the rest by shutting John up in prison.

21 When all the people were being **baptized**, Jesus was **baptized** too. And as he was **praying**, heaven was opened 22 and the **Holy Spirit** descended on him in bodily form like a **dove**. And a voice came from heaven: "**You are my Son**, whom I love; with you I am well **pleased**."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus was baptized and set apart to do God's will. How does my baptism do the same for me?

PRAYER: Beloved son, you entered the waters of inspiration made holy by God's Spirit. You accepted the full reality of this unconditional love so deeply that you dedicated all that you are, that I might also know this same truth. Help me at those times when I can't believe this 'too good to be true' revelation. Amen.