

Baptism

Week 1:

What was John Doing?

Luke 3:1-18





Baptism is the action that says, “I’m a follower of Jesus! The old me is gone. Christ has made me new.”

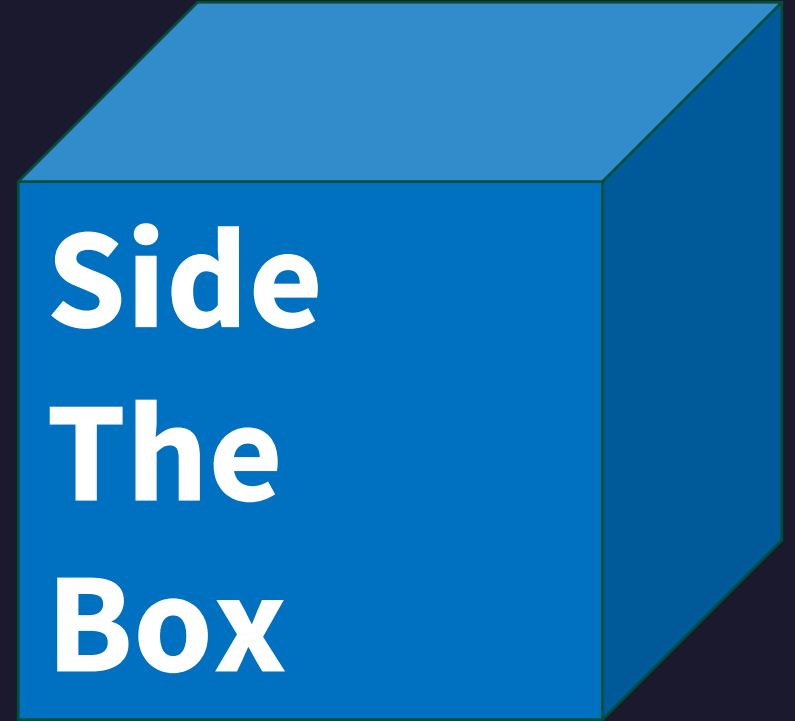
- It’s a **marker**. An act of identification.
- It’s the **beginning** of a new life.
- It both **required** and **mirrors** the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- It’s the heart-felt **response** to what Jesus has done.



Luke
3:1-18



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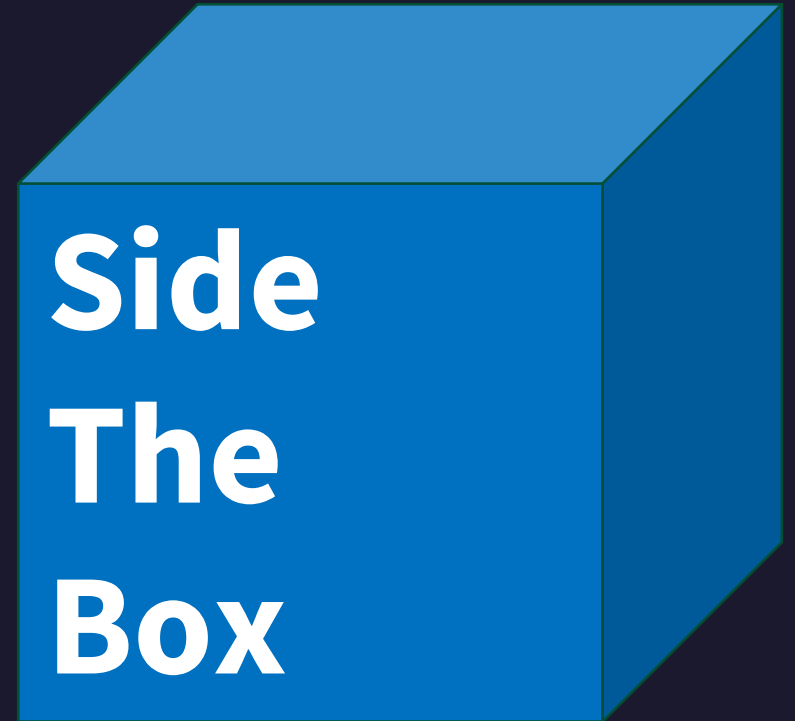
Side
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**It's
historically
anchored**



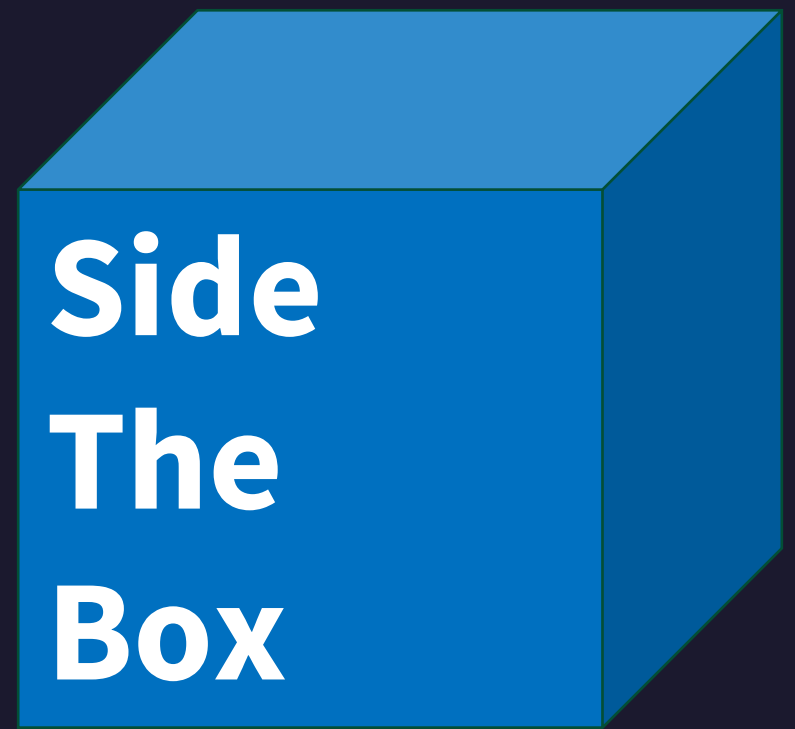
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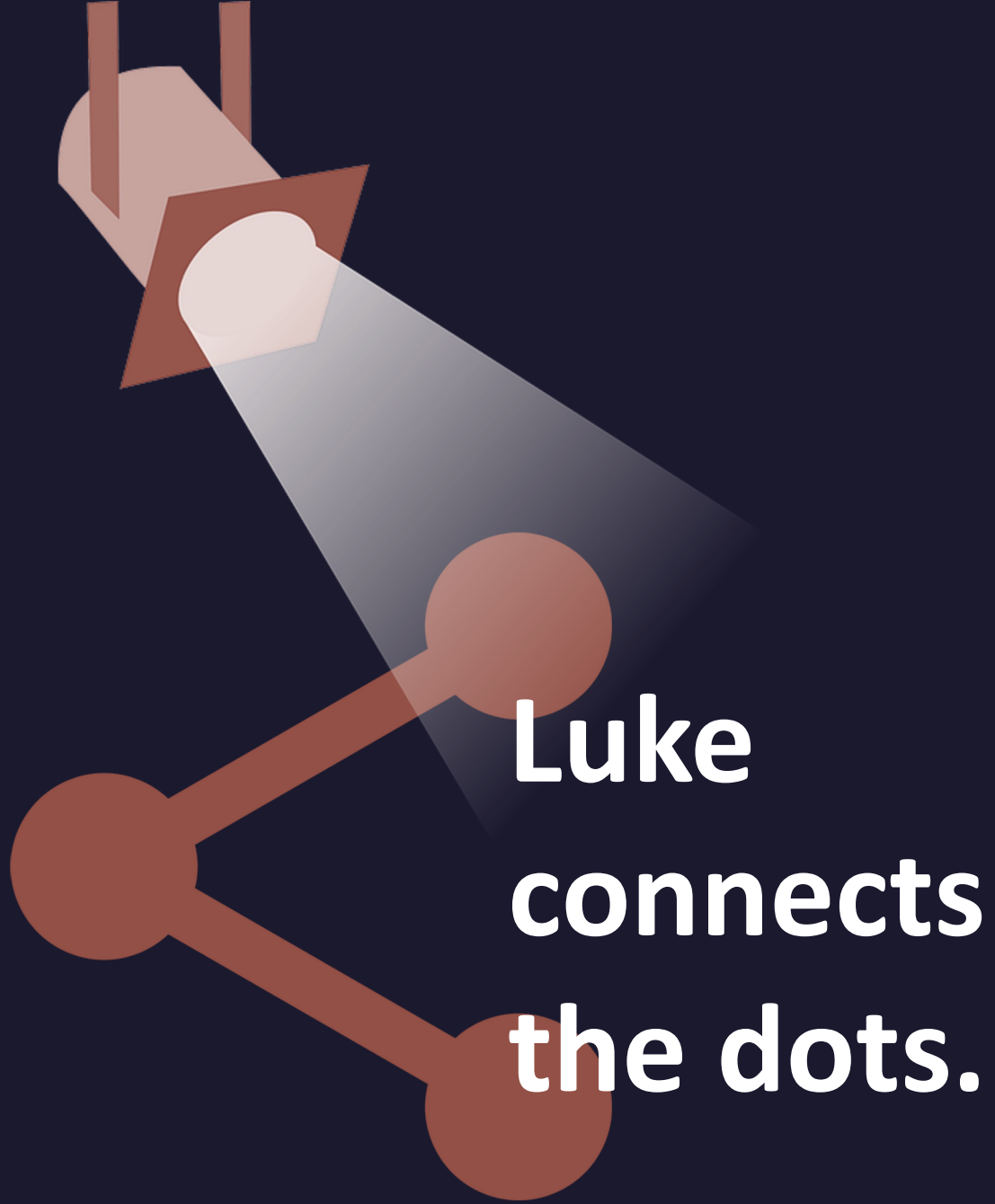


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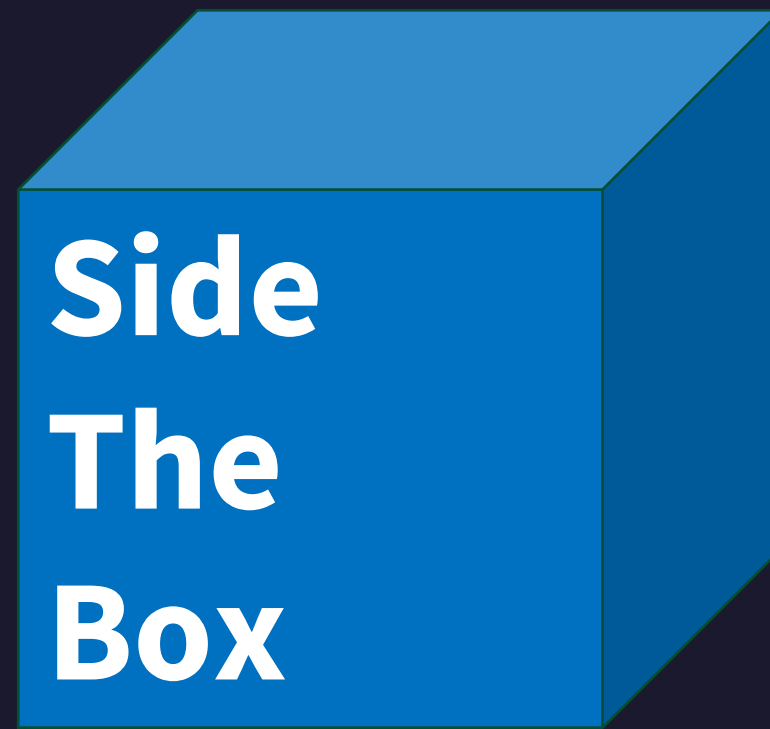


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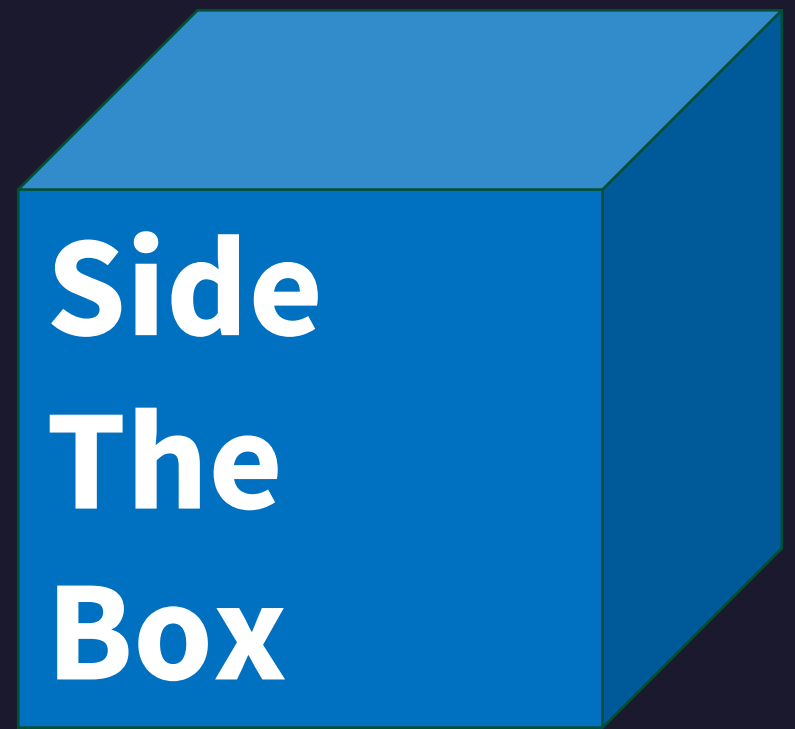


Undeniable
Proof

BOOM!

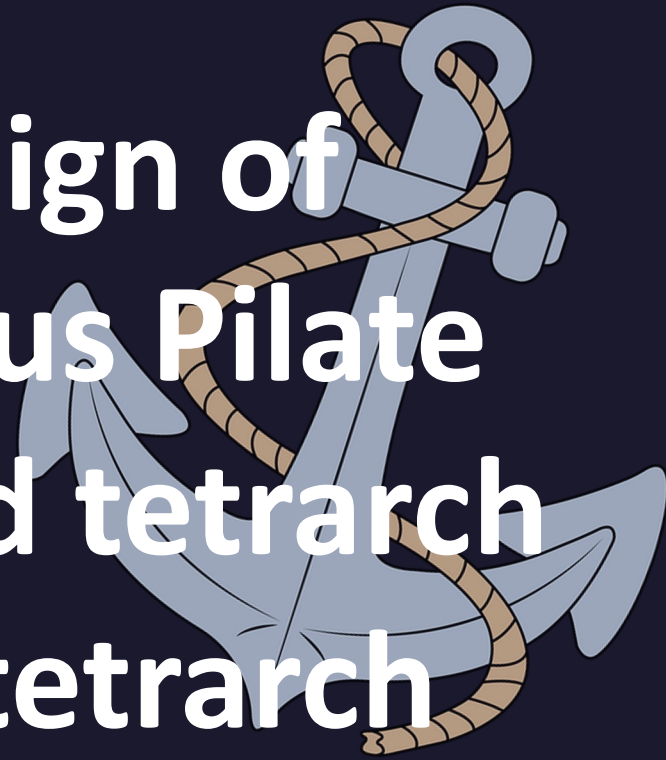


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In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—**when** Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² **during** the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,





the **word of God** came to John
son of Zechariah in the
wilderness.³ He went into all the
country around the Jordan, preaching
a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.



⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet . . .

Luke 3:1-4

An Alarming Message



***A Surprised
Audience***

³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

An Alarming Message



***The Promised
Forerunner***

⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord,

An Alarming Message



*Call for
Deep Change*

make straight paths for him.
⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made
low. The crooked roads shall
become straight, the rough
ways smooth. ⁶ And **all people**
will see God's salvation.”

Note the Faces In The Crowd

- **Religious Elite**
- **Rich**
- **Outcasts**
- **Soldiers**



7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of **vipers!** Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?
8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. **9** The ax is already at

the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”¹⁰ **“What should we do then?”** the crowd asked.¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has **two shirts** should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”¹² Even **tax collectors** came to be baptized.

“Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴ Then some **soldiers** asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”



So What Happened?

- 1. God sent John.**
- 2. John called the people to repent.**
- 3. They were baptized to say, “I’m in!”**
- 4. John baptized them to prepare them for the coming Messiah.**
- 5. The coming baptism involved Spirit and fire.**

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

16 John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is **more powerful** than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit** and

fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the **good news** to them.

**What does this say
about baptism?**

**Baptism without
repentance was not
allowed.**



What does this say about baptism?

John's baptism identified those who were all in. It was the natural response of a heart that cried out for God.



**What does this say
about baptism?**

**Baptism was followed by
changed behavior. It
marked the beginning of a
new way of living.**



What does this say about baptism?

The baptism of John was good, but the promised baptism is much better. It involved the Spirit of God Himself and power.



What does this say about baptism?

The same heart that made
John's listeners ask, "What
should we do?" prompts the
same question in us – and
we're given the same answer!



37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, **what shall we do?**”

38 Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized,** every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:37-38



Baptism is the action that says, “I’m a follower of Jesus! The old me is gone. Christ has made me new.”

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