

The Son

[Announce Text] Please Open your Bibles to Luke 3:21-38. [Page 859](#)

[Scripture Introduction] Good morning, my name is Brett Sweet and I'm one of the pastors here at Grace Christian Fellowship where we exist to glorify God through gospel-centered worship, evangelism, discipleship, and community. We preach expositionally through books- sequentially without skipping passages. This allows God, rather than the preacher to determine what must be heard. This means we will even give some attention to genealogies which I would be tempted to skip. But Luke's Gospel has it here for a reason and today we will learn why.

[Prayer for illumination] Please pray with me...

[Illustration] Have you ever felt stuck in a dark place? Exhausted? Discouraged? You search and labor and scratch and claw to get out but now you have added the burden of your own failure into the mix. You want rest. You begin to think that God is not real or that He must have it out for you. You think, "Sure, He loves others but there's no way He loves me. Otherwise I wouldn't be stuck in the dark. Trapped. Exhausted. Wondering if things will get better."

18-month-old Jessica McClure is stuck in a dark place for two-and-a-half days. She's playing with other children in her aunt's backyard. She takes a step. And. She's. Gone. Into darkness. Now she's falling through an 8-inch-wide opening of an abandoned well for 22 feet. Until. She's stuck. Wedged. In the darkness. It takes the right people to save her. It takes mining experts, experienced drillers, and other working around the clock drilling a parallel shaft. They want to then tunnel sideways through the rock to connect to where Jessica is. A microphone is lowered down listening to Baby Jessica. She is stressed- sure. She is crying. Yes. But at times she rests. She's humming and singing through the darkness. I wonder if Jessica is able to rest because, as an 18-month-old, she is used to adults rescuing her. Saving her. She isn't trying to dig her way out. Instead, a savior is coming to her.

If you think you need to be better to receive God's love, to dig yourself out of His disfavor Luke 3:21-38 gives you good news. In Jesus' baptism and in His genealogy God gives us confidence that our rescuer. Our savior. Has come. It tells us this:

[Proposition] Rest- Jesus the Son is your Savior.

The good news from the Bible is that you do not need to save yourself. You do not need to get your life together. You do not need to know all the answers. **You can rest. Jesus the Son is your Savior.** We'll look at two categories of what it means for Jesus our Savior to be the Son. First, we'll look at Jesus the unique Divine Son. Second, we'll see Jesus the universal human Son. Unique Divine Son. Universal human Son.

[Main Point 1] Jesus the Unique Divine Son

Jesus is unique. There is no one like Him. And that is a good thing. Let's watch His baptism and see that it is different than any other baptism we've ever seen. We'll notice what it means for Jesus to be the Unique Divine Son by seeing first that He is

[Subpoint 1] The Eternal Son

Read vv. 21-23 with me

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Jesus, when he began his ministry was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed of Joseph)

This passage teaches us about the Trinity in some beautiful ways. Some wrongly claim that God the Father simply adopted the man Jesus at His baptism. When he was dry on the banks of the Jordan River Jesus was just like you and me. But when He came out soaking wet, He was suddenly God's Son. That is wrong. That is the heresy called adoptionism. Instead, Jesus has eternally existed. He has always been the Son. Luke goes out of his way in v. 23 to show that Jesus was NOT Joseph's Son. Luke wants us to understand Jesus is divine and eternal.

Others say that there isn't a Trinity at all. They say God existed in the mode of Father in the Old Testament. Then He changed and existed in the mode of the Son in the gospels. Then changed and has existed in the mode as the Holy Spirit ever since. But this text says, "No." That's the heresy of modalism which is taught in the bestseller *the Shack*. Here's the truth: the Father, the Son, and the Spirit exist

simultaneously. In a relationship. Working together. Communicating with one another, even as they achieve the same purpose. The Son praying. He's speaking to the Father. The Father answering and speaking to the Son- opening Heaven for Him. And sending the Holy Spirit to anoint and empower Jesus for His ministry. The Spirit coming. Simultaneously.

[Application] There is only One Eternal Son. He has always existed in beautiful community with the Father and Spirit. Each fully and truly God. Each equal in power and glory. In unity each doing different things! So it's good that there is community within family made up of equal people with different roles. It is good that there is community within the church reflecting unity and diversity at the same time. It reflects the glorious Trinity!

Here's how this helps us rest. No matter how deep down you are stuck. No matter how great the enemies against you. When you put your faith in Christ you are brought into relationship with the Eternal Son. And the Eternal Father. And the Eternal Spirit! Your enemies and challenges may be strong but your Triune God is much stronger.

Jesus is the Unique Divine Son. This means He's the Eternal Son. Let's also see that being the Unique Divine Son means that Jesus is

[Subpoint 2] The Beloved Son

Look at the first part of what the Father says to Jesus in v. 22

"You are my beloved Son;"

The Father has a unique love for our Savior Jesus. God has an affection and love for Jesus the Son that has no rival. He is the beloved. Reflecting back on Psalm 2 where God calls the Davidic King His Son. This points to Jesus in His role as the promised Messiah who saves God's people.

[Illustration] Healthy families are usually excited to welcome an adult child's new spouse into their family. Because they love and trust their child, they love who their child loves. Hugs. Smiles. Love.

[Application] Do you love what God loves? Do you love what the Bible calls good? And hate what the Bible calls sin? Do you lovingly commit to the people that God has lovingly committed Himself to- the church? Most importantly, do you love

Jesus as He reveals Himself in Scripture? If you don't. You fail one of the tests of truly being a Christian. You probably aren't in a relationship with Him. If that's the case- whether you admit it or not, that puts you in a very dark and dangerous well that you can't get out of. Eternal Hell is described as a place of darkness. But there is good news coming.

Jesus is the Unique Divine Son. He is the Eternal Son, He is the Beloved Son, and now let's notice that Jesus is

[Subpoint 3] The Pleasing Son

Let's listen to what the Father says in v. 22 again

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Parents speak blessing to your children. Be 10 times more encouraging than critical. If the perfect and Holy God can be pleased, you should be able to be pleased too.

But notice v. 22: God can be pleased! That's very good news! This verse references Isaiah 42:1 where God describes His servant in whom He delights! The god of money always demands more. The god of pleasure always demands something better. The god of status always demands a new ladder to climb. But the true God is pleased with His Son! God the Father delights in the Unique, Divine, Pleasing Son!

[Application] All of this is very, very good news. News that means that you can rest.

[Illustration] It would be good to be Gus Wenner's friend. Gus graduates from Brown University. He works for *Rolling Stone* magazine for 6-7 months. Now he is the appointed head of all aspects of *Rolling Stone's* online content. Why? I can't help but think that it's because his dad, Jann Wenner is the co-founder and publisher of *Rolling Stone*. If you are with Gus the son, you don't need to worry about being locked out of the building if you forget your wallet or keys. You don't need to panic. You don't need to create an elaborate *Mission Impossible* infiltration. You call on Gus the son to help, and then you rest. He'll take care of it.

[Gospel] Christian, you get into God's favor the same way Gus Wenner's friends get into *Rolling Stone's* headquarters. By being with the Son. You can rest from

worrying if you've put your faith in the wrong person- Jesus is the Son. You don't get into God's favor by doing religious things. Getting baptized. Praying. Giving money. Serving the homeless. Knowing church history or the answer to the Bible question. None of those are bad. But you get into God's favor. You get into God's love. You please God. Because you know the Unique, Eternal, Beloved, Pleasing Son. When you trust Jesus as your Savior you do not need to try to dig yourself out of the hole any more. You can hum. You can sing. You can rest. The Divine Son is your Savior. But He is unique- which means He is the only One. You must surrender and come to Him. Otherwise you face the promise of judgment and Hell.

But the Unique Divine Son did more than get baptized. He lived a whole life of obedience. He lived a perfect life as God's Son. Living like we should be living. He was always the pleasing Son. But then He died as a substitute for every single person who would stop striving and rest in Him. Who truly give up on themselves and trust Him. And He has risen from the dead- defeating death. Proving that God is still pleased with Him. Proving that the debt is paid. You don't need to pay it! You can rest.

[Application] When it feels like God is against us, we often feel that way because we know we aren't living the life that would most please God and ourselves. When you believe, God credits Jesus' righteous perfection to you. So He can truly say to you, "This is my adopted Son or my adopted Daughter with you I am well pleased. I delight in you." You can rest. Luke 3 is God is telling you that Jesus is the Son so that you don't need to look elsewhere. Rest from your searching.

Rest- Jesus the Son is your Savior. The New Testament tells us that when you believe you are "in Christ." Jesus is the Unique Divine Son. Now let's notice that

[Main Point 2] Jesus is the Universal Human Son

God has an affection and love for Jesus the Son that has no rivals. But Jesus, as fully human is one of us too. He is the Universal Human Son. First, Jesus is

[Subpoint 1] The Providential Son

John Piper defines providence as God's "purposefully sovereignty by which he will be completely successful in the achievement of his ultimate goal for the universe." Now let's read vv. 23-38

²³ Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, ²⁴ the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, ²⁵ the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, ²⁶ the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, ²⁷ the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel,^[e] the son of Neri, ²⁸ the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, ²⁹ the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, ³⁰ the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, ³¹ the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, ³² the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, ³³ the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, ³⁴ the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, ³⁵ the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, ³⁶ the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, ³⁷ the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, ³⁸ the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

We've heard of some of these men. Most we haven't. But John Piper is right to say that God used all these men. To achieve. His ultimate goal for the universe. These men were either biological or legal fathers in the line of Joseph. Most were very forgettable to people like us. But God was using them to get us to the Guy. The Son.

[Application] Are you struggling in your marriage? Your job? Does it seem like nothing is going to plan? Do you wish you had different parents? No doubt many of these men labored through difficult relationships. Difficult times in work. Hostile social climates that didn't get better soon. Maybe they wished to live in Idaho. But God was providentially using them, their wives, and the events of their lives to bring about Jesus- the fully human Son. God is doing that in your life right now. Please note that it's not wrong to try to change your circumstances so long as you aren't disobeying God. If you are in a dangerous place get to safety. But recognize that the Bible teaches that God controls everything! And we celebrate that here! The people in your school and church here through God's providence.

The people in government are all here through God's providence. We can trust Him and rest in His purposes just as He brought us Jesus.

Jesus is the universal human Son. He is the Providential Son. Now let's notice that Jesus is

[Subpoint 2] The Royal Son

Verse 31 mentions that Jesus is the son of David. To anyone who had read their Old Testaments, this means that Jesus is in the line to be King. Jesus is the royal Son as a human in the line of David. We have a king we can rest in.

Lastly, let's notice that Jesus is

[Subpoint 3] The Universal Son

Most genealogies go from beginning to end. But this one goes from end to beginning. Verse 38 takes us all the way to Adam the universal father of all mankind.

Matthew's genealogy is different in a few ways. Matthew's only goes back to Abraham. Why? Because Matthew is writing to a primarily Jewish audience. Proving that Jesus the Son is their Messiah. But Luke is writing primarily to Gentiles, so he is showing how Jesus can be the Son needed to save the universal scope of humanity. Every race, age, background, or ability. If you are human then Jesus came to save people exactly like you. And that is just what we see in the church around the world. That is also the reason why Jesus is baptized in Luke's gospel. He didn't sin. So He didn't need to repent like all those who listened to John the Baptist. He was baptized as a sign of solidarity. He is baptized because He is identifying with God's people. He is living as One of us so that He can save His people.

Pantheism, New Age thinking, and the eastern religions tell you to strive and labor. If you are successful- through your environmentalism or your religion or whatever you will be smooshed together into one peaceful blob with no individuality- there'd be no need to list individual names like this. But Jesus your Savior is the Son. He is distinct from Father and Spirit even as they are One. So individuality does matter. So we can rejoice that God saves individuals of all types born from Adam and values our individuality forever.

Listen to me. If you create a god of your own making- you will not live up. You will recognize that others don't live up to it. They don't meet your standards. So you will either fail by not meeting your own standards or you will be a huge hypocrite that overlooks your own failings with dishonesty. But you will strive and work and stress. The false god of Mormonism says the same thing. Believe. Yes. But work! Work until you have elevated yourself enough. Do more. Give more. Act happy. The Allah of Islam is similar. Get to work! Say your prayers. Make your pilgrimage. But you may be fated for Hell. You'll never know if you have done enough.

But the gospel says this: Rest. Jesus the Son is your Savior. He has done the work. He was anointed with the Holy Spirit empowering Him to perfectly achieve salvation. Driving Him to do God's will and do amazing things in the years that follow. Strengthening Him to achieve the righteousness we need. Guiding Him to the cross to pay for our sins. The work is done. By the unique and universal Son. By the divine and human Son. God wants our eyes on Him.

[Conclusion] I left Baby Jessica in the hole. But her saviors came. They cut through the rock and darkness and made their way down to her. They pulled her out. If you aren't a Christian give up your striving and rest today. Jesus the Son is the only Savior. If you are a Christian, no matter how dark things seem you can rest. You are not your Savior. The baptized, Spirit-anointed Son is your Savior.