

# Matthew 3:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

## Analysis

Jesus' explanation that baptism 'fulfills all righteousness' indicates He came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it perfectly (Matthew 5:17). His baptism inaugurates His public ministry and identifies Him with the sinners He came to save, though He Himself had no sin. This demonstrates the active obedience of Christ—His perfect law-keeping on behalf of His people. 'It becometh us' includes both Jesus and John in God's redemptive purposes.

## Historical Context

Christ's baptism occurred around AD 27-29 at the beginning of His public ministry, approximately age 30 (Luke 3:23). This fulfilled the requirement for Levitical priests to begin ministry at 30 (Numbers 4:3), connecting Jesus' baptism to His priestly office.

## Related Passages

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's baptism demonstrate His active obedience in fulfilling all righteousness on behalf of His people?
2. What does Jesus' identification with sinners at baptism foreshadow about His substitutionary death on the cross?

## Interlinear Text

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Αποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτόν ἀφίησιν  
answering And G3588 Jesus said unto him Suffer  
G611 G1161 G2424 G2036 G4314 G846 G863

ἄρτι οὕτως γὰρ πρέπον ἐστὶν ἡμῖν πληρῶσαι  
it to be so now thus for it becometh G2076 us to fulfil  
G737 G3779 G1063 G4241 G2254 G4137

πᾶσαν δικαιοσύνην Τότε ἀφίησιν αὐτόν  
all righteousness Then Suffer him  
G3956 G1343 G5119 G863 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 4:34** (References Jesus): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

**Isaiah 42:21** (Righteousness): The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

**John 13:15** (Parallel theme): For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

**John 15:10** (Parallel theme): If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

**1 John 2:6** (Parallel theme): He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

**Luke 1:6** (Righteousness): And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

**John 8:29** (Parallel theme): And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

**Hebrews 7:26** (Parallel theme): For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;