

THE SUNDAYS IN THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY ALWAYS BEGIN WITH THE STORY OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS AND **END** WITH THE STORY OF HIS TRANSFIGURATION. IF WE LOOK AT THE TWO LESSONS CLOSELY, WE CAN SEE THEM AS COMPANION STORIES WITH SEVERAL PARALLEL FEATURES.

TOGETHER THEY FRAME AND FOCUS THE LIGHT OF THE EPIPHANY SEASON ON THE GLORY AND MISSION OF JESUS. WE CAN SEE JESUS AS THE ONE WHO IS BORN **LIKE US** IN EVERY WAY AND YET IS ALSO THE BELOVED SON ON WHOM GOD'S GLORY SHONE. IN BOTH OF THESE INSTANCES, IT IS THE FATHER WHO ACKNOWLEDGES HIS SON, BUT HE ALSO SAYS, "IN YOU I AM WELL PLEASED."

WITH JESUS' BAPTISM, HE RECEIVES THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGINS HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY. JESUS IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH A CRUSADE AND HE COMES TO BE BAPTIZED SO THAT HE MIGHT IDENTIFY WITH THE PEOPLE. BUT, HE ALSO COMES SEEKING GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO DO IS WHAT GOD HAS **PLANNED** FOR HIM TO DO. THAT'S OUR FIRST LESSON THIS MORNING. MANY TIMES PEOPLE GO OFF "DOING GOD'S WORK" WITHOUT EVER HAVING ASKED GOD IF THEY'RE DOING THE WORK THAT HE HAS PLANNED FOR THEM. I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EACH OF OUR LIVES AND OUR JOB IS TO PRAYERFULLY DISCERN JUST WANT THAT JOB IS....AND THEN DO IT.

