



Pastor Todd Schlechty
December 6, 2015

The Force is Not With You
Matthew 3:1-17

Advent = _____

The Force Vs. The Biblical Triune God

- Differences:
- Similarities:

John's Message about the Force:

I. The Force is _____.

Matthew 3:7-10 *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; 9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. 10 The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."*

Matthew 3:11-12 *"As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

II. The Force is _____.

Matthew 3:13-17 *Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. 14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" 15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. 16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."*

Point:

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



1. Who is the star of the wars you wage in life? How have you made yourself the star of your battles? What would it look like if the Spirit of God was the star of your wars?
2. Where do you find the power you need in life? When do you look to yourself as "the force" in life? When do you look to Christ as your power for living?
3. What could you do this Advent season to prepare yourself to receive the Spirit of Christ in a deeper way into your life?
4. What would your life look like if you learned to rely on the Spirit and not yourself (your flesh) for the power to confront difficulties in life?

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email pastortodd@thevineva.org or call 703.819.7795 to set up an appointment.