

For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 3:13-17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John [the Baptist] at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “**Let** [ἄφες, **áphes**] it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he [the Baptist] consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, **suddenly** [ἰδοὺ, **idou̐**] the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And [ἰδοὺ, **idou̐**; *not translated here*] a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” [NRSV89]

3:15

ἄφες, **áphes**; *vb*: 2nd aor act **imperative** 2nd pers sg from ἀφίημι
translations: **let** [NRSV89, ESV, NIV11], also **allow** [NAB], **deja** [IAdNT], **leave** [NJB],
permit [NGEINT, NKJV]

3:16

ἰδοὺ, **idou̐**; *vb*: 2nd aor mid **imperative** 2nd pers sg from ὁράω
translations: **suddenly** [NRSV89, NJB], and **at that moment** [NIV11], **behold** [ESV,
NAB, NGEINT, NKJV], **he aqui** [IAdNT]

3:17

ἰδοὺ, **idou̐**; *vb*: 2nd aor mid **imperative** 2nd pers sg from ὁράω
translations: **behold** [ESV, NGEINT], **he aqui** [IAdNT], **suddenly** [NJB, NKJV], not
translated in NAB, NIV11, or NRSV89

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Gene Crossett, Jr.
December 1, 2022