

For the Love of an Imperative Verb

Matthew 3:13-17

The First Sunday after the Epiphany, Year A, RCL

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, **idoù**] the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And [ἰδοὺ, **idoù**; *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, NRSVue], also **allow** [NAB], **deja** [IAdNT],

leave [NJB], **permit** [NGEINT, NKJV]

3:16

ἰδοὺ, **idoù**; *vb*: 2nd aor mid **imperative** 2nd pers sg from ὁράω:

translations: **suddenly** [NRSV89, NJB, NRSVue], and **at that moment** [NIV11], **behold**

[ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NKJV], **he aqui** [IAdNT]

3:17

ἰδοὺ, **idoù**; *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, NRSV89, or NRSVue

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