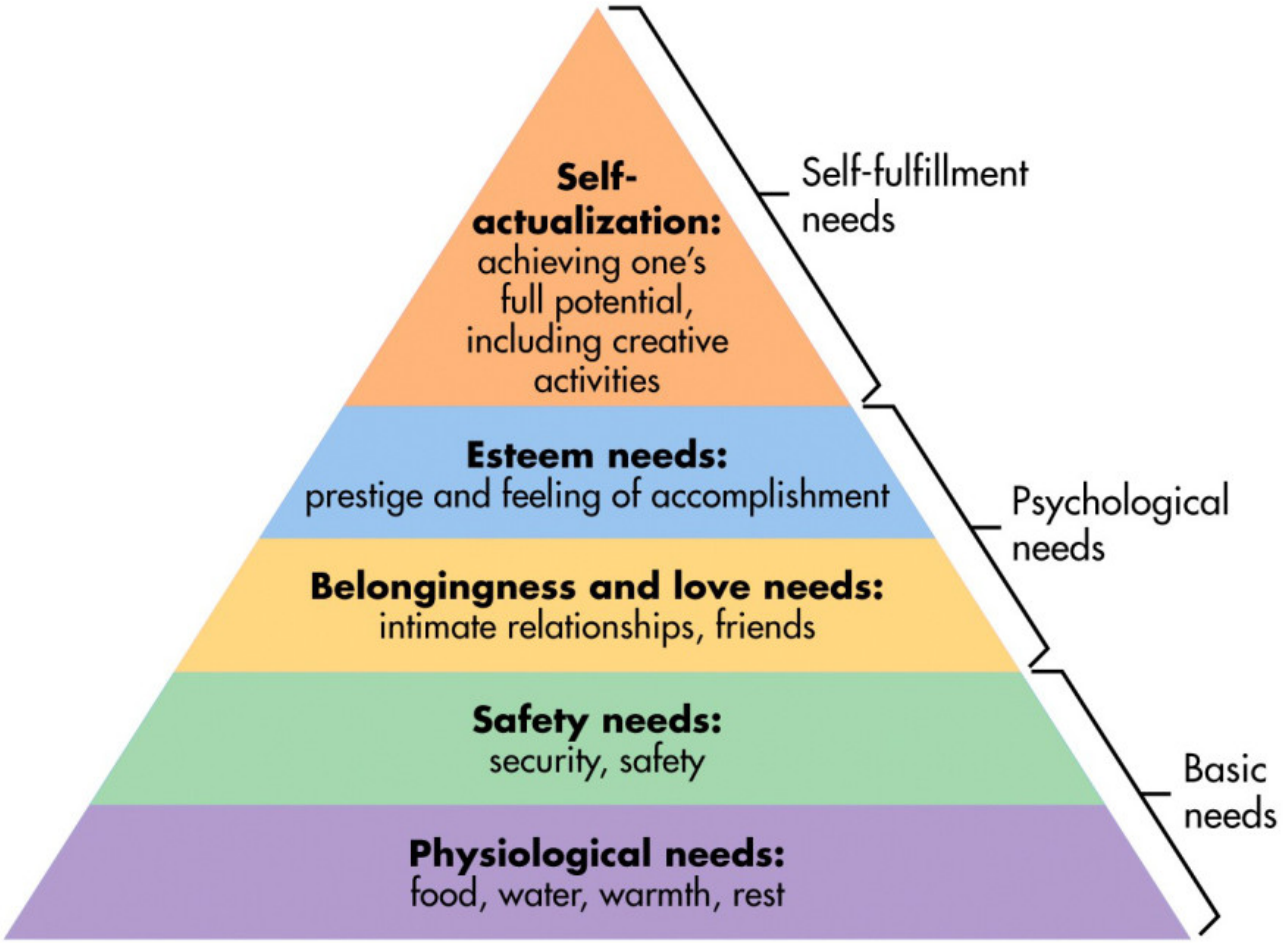
Jesus, the Beloved Son

There was John and then there was Jesus.

John couldn't be categorized as anything but completely, radically, undeniably committed. His calling and mission propelled him into the vortex of the Jesus story. What do you call a man who wears camel's skin and a belt? How do you explain a consistent diet of wild honey and extra crispy locust?

He improvised His way through all the things we call "necessities." Maslow's hierarchy of needs turned itself upside-down for John



Basic needs? Food, water, rest- To John? Not that important…
Safety? To John? Not on the radar.
Belonging? No, not really a mission statement of John the

Baptist.
Esteem? He gave that up a long time ago.

At the very foundation of John's life was the realization, the actualization of his mission and purpose in the story. This man was all-in on the one thing that would matter.

No reputation
No retirement plan
No family
No boat
No Sunday clothes (or Saturday for that matter)
No 20 year plan
No one to impress

This was John the Baptist.

I wonder what would happen if I laid everything on the table like that? It's a "betting the farm" faith. It's a faith that is well-aware that the mission is more vast than the person.

> *John was the prophet.*
>
> *Jesus was the Savior.*

Luke writes, "When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too."

At that moment Jesus enters the pilgrimage and path of every seeker- man, woman and child.

Jesus was baptized too.

Jesus was buried the currents of the water and surfaced to the sound of the Heavens parting and the proud Papa: "This is my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

We believe that every person who claims Jesus as Lord, becomes a part of this story. When someone enters the waters of baptism we can be sure that this same gracious Father is

saying, “This is my beloved, in whom I am well pleased.”

We are baptized and *Jesus was baptized too.*

It’s so easy for me to forget amidst the deep flaws of my life, that there is a Father who loves me because Jesus was baptized too.

When the pain is too great to bear, we remember Jesus suffered too.

When rejection hovers over us like a cloud, we remember that Jesus was rejected too.

Life, in all aspects, is made beautiful because Jesus lived too. He is the Savior who came among the devils and dust of fallen humanity so He could lead us to heights unseen,

Jesus was baptized too. The Father blesses. The waters part. The Holy Spirit comes down. And the Father smiles. And life becomes a moveable feast.