

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 30TH, 2023 // BAPTISM

WHAT IS BAPTISM? (MARK 1:1-5)

A BRIEF HISTORY

In the Bible, we are introduced to baptism at the Jordan River, where John was baptizing people from all over the countryside. It was a crowd-gathering event, but this wasn't the beginning of baptism.

- Judaism, other religions, and cultures had been "baptizing" for centuries before John the Baptizer was born.

WASHED AWAY

The Old Testament tells of many cleansing ceremonies and rituals to be completed before, during, and after certain events.

- Although some were symbolic, many cleansings were done to avoid infection and ward off the spread of disease. In today's culture, there are still many types of symbolic cleansings performed by various religions.

A DIFFERENT BAPTISM

There are three basic modes of water baptism: immersion (dunking), aspersion (sprinkling), and affusion (pouring).

- When John baptized, it was by immersion. We know this because **the word baptize literally means "submerge."**

A DIFFERENT BAPTISM

John called people to be baptized as they repented of their sins. But it was not the same as the baptisms that will happen this weekend. They may have repented of their sins, but it was only symbolic of that repentance and not a changed life. **John baptized because Christ was coming, not because of what Christ had done.**

WHY BAPTISM? (MATTHEW 3:13-17)

A UNIQUE BAPTISM

Jesus came to be baptized by John, not because He had to (Jesus had no sin), but to "fulfill all righteousness."

- Jesus was obedient and set an example for us at the beginning of His ministry.
- Later, He would commission His followers to "Go, therefore, and make **disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**" (Matthew 28:19).

BAPTISM IS FOR DISCIPLES

That scripture makes it clear that disciples should be baptized. But who are the disciples?

- A disciple is a follower of Jesus. Contrary to some modern church teaching and cultural understanding, you don't become a Jesus Follower by joining/attending a church, driving with the bumper sticker, or wearing the t-shirt.
- **Following Jesus is about a relationship.**

A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP

A relationship with Christ is the one relationship you've been looking for your whole life.

- Jesus sets the standards for all other relationships. Relationships with parents, children, siblings, friends, neighbors, and even with enemies can be seen in Christ.
- **We need the one relationship that only Christ can give: a relationship with our Savior.**

WITHOUT JESUS

When we admit that we are less than perfect, we begin to realize that we are incomplete without Jesus. **We are lost without Him.**

- Until that point, our attempts to live have fallen short, and our earthly relationships have suffered too. **We are alone without Him.**
- When we are lost and alone, it's hard to keep trying. **We are dead without Him.**

JESUS IS FOR US

The Bible says that while we are at our lowest, sinners to the core, **"God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"** (Romans 5:8).

- **Christ did something we couldn't do: pay the price for our sin.**
- His death, burial, and resurrection confirm that the price was paid in full.

WILL WE BELIEVE?

Our part is to believe.

- **"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).**

BELIEVERS FOLLOW CHRIST THROUGH OBEDIENCE

We know that what we do has not and cannot save us; only our Savior, Jesus Christ, can.

- Our relationship with Him leads us to obedience as we show our love for Him.
- The Bible even tells us how:
- **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30).**

WHEN? (ACTS 2:36-42)

A STRONG WALK

When they heard that Jesus was Lord and Messiah, they **immediately** asked what they should do.

- Their response was as **immediate** as their need for a savior.
- The only time we see a delay between salvation and baptism is when there wasn't an opportunity to baptize. **Today is an opportunity.**

OBEDIENCE

- Jesus was baptized for righteousness. It is the right thing to do.
- **The Bible says, "Repent and be baptized."**
- **Every step of obedience leads to more understanding.**

CELEBRATION

- God the Father was pleased at the baptism of Jesus.
- **We are no longer lost, alone, and dead. We have been given new life in Christ!**
- There is only celebration and joy when a Believer is baptized.
- **Our life has changed. Our eternal destination has been set!**

REPENTANCE

- It is a declaration that we have been **forever forgiven of our sins because of the work of Christ on the cross.**
- After baptism, we continue to **confess our sins and remember the body and blood of Christ that was given for us as we take Communion.**