

The Sacraments Part 2 - "Baptism" (3-8-26)

Introduction: Focus on The Sacraments in this season of reflection on the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Main Text: Matthew chapter 3

Baptize ("Baptizo" G907) - to dip, immerse, submerge for a religious purpose, to overwhelm, saturate

John the Baptist

Matthew 3:1-2 (ESV)

[1] In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, [2] "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

***Mark 1:4 (ESV)**

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 3:5-6 (ESV)

[5] Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, [6] and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Matthew 3:8 (ESV)

Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

Matthew 3:11 (ESV)

I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Jesus' Baptism

Matthew 3:13-17 (ESV)

[13] Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. [14] John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" [15] But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. [16] And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; [17] and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Jesus is then led into wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He returns from that and begins ministry life . . .

Matthew 4:17 (ESV)

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Key Themes

- Confession of Sins, Repentance, Forgiveness of Sins
- Declaration of Identity
- A Responsive life to the Kingdom of Heaven that is at hand

1) Baptism of Repentance

Acts 2:38-41 (ESV)

[38] And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” [40] And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” [41] So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Note: We need to be rescued from our brokenness - repent and be baptized is our response to the gospel.

1 Peter 3:18 and 21 (ESV)

[18] For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit . . . [21] Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Note: We can be cleansed only because of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism pictures this!

Psalms 32:5 (ESV)

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

***Psalm 32** is a great reflection on dealing with sin by coming to the Lord to receive mercy, rescue, and shelter.

1 John 1:7-9 (ESV)

[7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. [8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Note: Let's walk in the light, forgiven and cleansed!

2) Baptized into a New Life and New Identity

Romans 6:3-4 (ESV)

[3] Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Note: From Repentance to New Life

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (ESV)

[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Note: We are a New Creation now - reconciled to our rightful place, reconnected to our Creator

Romans 8:14-15 (ESV)

[14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Note: We aren’t just created beings, but sons and daughters. Made in his image, meant for right relationship

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (ESV)

[12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. [14] For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

Note: This identity of adoption places us in a family that breaks all barriers!

3) Obedience to Jesus - Bearing fruit in the Kingdom**Matthew 3:8, 4:17 (ESV)**

(3:8) Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. . . (4:17) From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] 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, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Philippians 2:9-11 (ESV)

[9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 6:46-49 (ESV)

[46] “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? [47] Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: [48] he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. [49] But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

Note: When we ignore the Lordship of Jesus, we set ourselves up for great ruin

Conclusion: Baptism into our new life in Jesus comes by faith as we repent and confess our sins and receive forgiveness. We are now a new creation, with a new identity and family, made to bear fruit as we submit our lives to King Jesus

Notes on How our church community views and practices Water Baptism

- Water baptism is full immersion in water – signifying a decision to repent and follow Jesus.
- However, the act of baptism is not what saves you – It is an outward picture of an inward change.
- Not as babies, but as understanding allows – it’s a choice following salvation.
- What about Infant Baptisms?
 - Not in the Bible – However, people did bring their children to Jesus to be blessed.
 - So, we practice this and call it Baby Dedications.