

Three Powerful Gifts.

The Church and Its Sacraments



SERMON NOTES

Week 2 June 23, 2024

“The Purpose and Power of Baptism”

Ezekiel 36:25-26; Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38, 16:15, 33; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-12; Galatians 3:26-28; I Corinthians 1:16

I. Introduction

- A. A _____ is a visible symbol or action that represents, and actually imparts, God’s grace.
- B. Starting in the Old Testament, you will find times when God told the Israelites to bathe for ritual _____.
- C. Jesus got _____ to help us understand that he identifies with us and to call us to do what he had done.
- D. The act of baptism is an outward and visible way of expressing some interior deep _____.

II. The Meaning of Baptism

- A. Baptism is an outward sign of what God is doing in _____ us.
- B. Baptism becomes a sign that you have been _____ into Jesus’ community.
- C. Baptism is connected to the outpouring of the _____.
- D. Baptism is associated with Jesus’ death and _____.
- E. Paul connects baptism for Christians to what happens in _____ in Judaism.
- F. All of us who have been baptized in Christ, despite all of the differences in the world, are _____.

III. Questions About Baptism

- A. When we practice infant baptism, we recognize that God is at work in the lives of children _____ they ever come to know who he is.
- B. It’s not the _____ of water that matters, it’s the grace of God that we are signifying by whatever quantity of water we use.

IV. Application

- A. If you have never been baptized, I want to invite you to be _____.
- B. If you have already been baptized, I want to encourage you to _____ your baptism.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



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INTRODUCTION

Christian denominations tend to disagree on various aspects of baptism. Should infants be baptized or should you wait until you can make a decision to follow Christ on your own? Should we baptize by sprinkling of water or immersion? What is the meaning of baptism?

Monday: Psalm 51:2-7, Isaiah 4:3-6

Baptism recognizes symbolically that God loves you just as you are, and loves you too much to leave you as you are. "Don't pretend you're seeking forgiveness if you're really not. The kind of half-hearted apologies we sometimes offer don't cut it here."** What did Psalm 51 show about the quality of whole-hearted repentance? When have you been able to talk to God like that?

Tuesday: Luke 3:4-8

John the Baptist had a very clear sense of mission: to lead people to repent and accept God's forgiveness of sins and show it through the sign of baptism (verse 3). His passionate call for people to change and accept baptism was full of urgency. To what extent do you feel a sense of urgency in pursuing God's path for your life?

Wednesday: Matthew 3:13-17

There was a practical reason for baptizing Jesus. In his church (cf. Matthew 16:18), baptism wasn't only for "outsiders" (Gentiles), but for all of his followers. Why let anyone say, "Why should I be baptized? Jesus wasn't." In loftier words, "The baptism of Jesus identifies Jesus as the messianic servant who stands in solidarity with his people. As their representative he came 'to fulfill all righteousness' (Matthew 3:15)." ** How did Jesus' example add depth to baptism?

Thursday: Matthew 28:16-20

In what ways does believing that Jesus rose from the dead change your heart and life? How does the resurrection make Jesus' claim to have the divine authority to forgive your sins credible for you? In what ways are you gifted to help carry out Jesus' directive? How does Jesus' command to live out his mission shape your understanding of what it means for Resurrection to be "the church"?

Friday: Acts 2:38-41, 10:45-48, 16:33, 22:14-16

Acts 9:10-18 tells the story of Ananias bravely going to a man who had come to town to imprison and maybe kill him. When on trial, in Acts 22, Paul remembered that Ananias was eager to get him baptized, despite his track record of violently opposing Christians. Has God ever called you to do something good that scared you and called for some courage? If God called you to an "Ananias" mission today, how easy/hard do you believe it would be to respond?

MOVING FORWARD

The act of baptism is an outward and visible way of expressing some interior deep truth. There are several ways of thinking about what baptism does, communicates and how it gives us the grace of God. Baptism signifies forgiveness, initiation into God's family and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It also is associated with Jesus' death and resurrection, the Jewish initiation of circumcision and that we are all one in Christ. Baptism is something that is meant to shape who you are in the present, and everyday going forward. If you have never been baptized, do it soon. If you have been baptized you should frequently remember your baptism.

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) sacrament, B) purification, C) baptized, D) truth.
IIA) forgiving, B) initiated, C) Holy Spirit, D) resurrection, E) circumcision, F) one.
IIIA) before, B) quantity. IVA) baptized, B) remember.*

* Hamilton, Adam. *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go*. (Kindle Locations 255-256). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

**D. S. Dockery, article "Baptism" in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL., Inter Varsity Press, 1992, p. 58.