



The Baptism of Jesus & Our Baptism

January 28, 2024

John the Baptist is out in the wilderness baptizing people in the river Jordan.

Matt 3:5 Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

But then Jesus came to be baptized by John. Jesus is the sinless Savior, why did He ask John to baptize Him?

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:30 "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'

John 1:31 I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water."

John 1:32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.

John 1:33 I did not recognize Him, but he who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

John 1:34 I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

John the Baptist says the reason he came baptizing was so that Jesus might be revealed to Israel. His baptism is His public emergence onto the world stage.

But there is another reason why Jesus came to be baptized by John.

Matt 3:13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John to be baptized by him.

Matt 3:14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

Matt 3:15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for I this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.

So what does it mean? John the Baptist says, "*You do not need to be baptized by me; I need to be baptized by You,*" and Jesus responds, "*No, it's fitting to fulfill all righteousness.*"

Both visually and symbolically, what John would be doing would be taking some of that Jordan water, *symbolically polluted by the sins of the people he baptized*, and baptizing Jesus with that polluted water.

Later on Jesus says, "I've still got a baptism to be baptized with. *Luke 12:50 "But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!"* He's speaking about the cross.

And what was happening in His baptism in the Jordan was a kind of prophetic act pointing forwards to what would happen on the cross.

There is more I want to say about the time when Jesus was baptized, but I'll save that for next week. But for now, I want to stop here and consider what baptism is for us today.

After the Apostle Peter preaches the gospel in Acts 2 to a large crowd, they ask him a question:

Acts 2:37-39 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

Their question is basically, “We want to say yes to Jesus as Messiah, as Savior and Lord. How do we say yes to Jesus?” Peter says that the way you say yes to Jesus is to repent and be baptized.

[Let me review for you what Jesus said to would be followers.]

Mark 8:34 And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Mark 8:35 “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel ‘s will save it.

Mark 8:36 “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?

Mark 8:37 “For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 8:38 “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Jesus clearly wants His followers to go public. To be unashamed of being His disciple. It's the initiatory rite of the Christian.

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Matt 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Matt 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Now, having said that, allow me to try to answer some more questions about baptism.

1. Is it appropriate to baptize babies?

The Biblical answer to that question is that baptism should only be administered to those who are old enough to recognize their sinfulness, mature enough to understand what the death of Christ is all about, and responsible enough to make a solid decision to trust Christ and to follow Him throughout the course of their life.

2. If person refuses a be baptized, will that cause him to forfeit his salvation?

In a way, baptism is the first obedience tests of a Christian. And any person who claims to be a believer and shakes his fist at the first test of obedience, I think, is in deep, deep trouble! Probably deep deception.

3. A third question is about the mode of baptism. Do we dunk or sprinkle?

The word “baptism” itself suggests going down into or dipping under the water.

That is a picture of what happens to a person when they turn to Jesus as Savior and Lord. They have been changed.

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father; so we too might walk in newness of life.

The clear implication is that people were completely immersed. They go under water to show they their old life is dead and buried. And they rise up out of the water washed and cleansed, a whole new person from head to toe, in newness of life, ready to live for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Have you been baptized since truly repenting of your sins and believing in Christ as your Savior and Lord? And if you haven't, why haven't you?

In two weeks we're going to have a baptism service. And there are many of you that need to be a part of this super celebration. And, there is a special meeting of those who need to be baptized this next Sunday, in the Worship Center, 4-5 pm.