

Week 5: Baptism, A Deep Dive

This Movie Scene: Pause the movie. We need to talk about a prequel reference Matthew made last week that is important. John was baptizing people, Jesus came to get baptized, and the heavens dramatically opened up. What did this mean to the people watching? What should this mean for us? What is baptism anyway?

Believer's baptism is the act of immersing a new believer to outwardly demonstrate the inner change that has taken place when someone is forgiven from their sins and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Read Matthew 28:19-20

- What did Jesus command here in the Great Commission?

Read Romans 6:1-11

- Paul describes the symbolism of baptism. What does being put under the waters of baptism represent?
- What does being brought up out of the waters of baptism represent?
- What does verse 6 say that sin does to us?

Baptism is an ordinance or sacrament (depending on your denomination), meaning it is a ceremony, practiced by the church (the people of God), established & commanded by Christ, to rehearse the story of God alongside other believers. **How does baptism rehearse the story of God?**

Read Isaiah 43:2

- Note that water and fire often represent divine judgement in the Bible. What is promised here?

Read Genesis 6:11-18; 7:1, 15-23

- Why did God send the flood (Genesis 6:11-13; 17)?
- How was Noah safely brought through the waters of judgement (6:18-22)?

The Exodus from Egypt

- In Exodus 14:21-22, how did God's people safely cross the waters of the Red Sea?
- Read Exodus 3:11-12; 6:6-7; 29:45-46. What were the people of God being saved from? What were they being saved to? In other words, what was the situation before and after their baptism?

Application

- What did you learn about the symbolism of baptism?
- How does this change how you view baptism, both your own and the witnessing of the baptism of others?
- If you have been saved, have you been obedient to the command to be baptized? If not, what is holding you back? What parent or leader can you talk with about your questions?

Homework: Read Matthew 4

Corporate Response: Stand and Read Aloud Together (Not in Your Boring Voice)

Psalm 66:1-12 (CSB)

¹ Let the whole earth shout joyfully to God!

² Sing about the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious.

³ Say to God, "How awe-inspiring are your works!
Your enemies will cringe before you
because of your great strength.

⁴ The whole earth will worship you
and sing praise to you.
They will sing praise to your name."

⁵ Come and see the wonders of God;
his acts for humanity are awe-inspiring.

⁶ He turned the sea into dry land,
and they crossed the river on foot.
There we rejoiced in him.

⁷ He rules forever by his might;
he keeps his eye on the nations.

The rebellious should not exalt themselves.

⁸ Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard.

⁹ He keeps us alive
and does not allow our feet to slip.

¹⁰ For you, God, tested us;
you refined us as silver is refined.

¹¹ You lured us into a trap;
you placed burdens on our backs.

¹² You let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out to abundance.