

Sunday, June 4, 2023
The Encouraging Jesus Series
Baptism and “Making Disciples”

Last Two Weeks:

Baptism represents our heart in reaching out to God to help us, our prayer for cleansing from sin, and the totality of Jesus’ work to forgive and transform us.

- **For Jesus, baptism represented His public declaration of His commitment to the purpose for which He was created.**

Baptism represented Jesus’ heart and commitment: It was His publicly expressed dedication to the righteous work of God.

Baptism produced God’s expressed happiness: God sent the Spirit to work with Him and expressed how proud He was of Jesus.

¹⁶ After He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and settling on Him, ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” **Matthew 3:11-17**

- **The Apostle Peter described baptism as a “publicly expressed prayer” for cleansing of our life through resurrection power.**

²¹ Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but **an appeal to God** for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” **1 Peter 3:21**

- **The Apostle Paul described baptism as representing the totality of Jesus’ work within us. Colossians 2:11; Romans 6:3**

Going under the water is identification with Jesus’ death.

Coming up from the water is identification with resurrection.

“having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. **Colossians 2:12**

³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. **Romans 6:3-4**

¹³ And when you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him**, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, ... **Colossians 2:13-15**

Baptism and the Making Disciples

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; **Matthew 28:16-20**

1. **The heart of Jesus is that every person in the world would trust Him for what He proved He can do beyond the visible.**

John 5:20 and 36; John 10:25 and 38

Jesus is this world’s Only Evidence of the Extraterrestrial

2. **Jesus commands His followers to “make disciples.”**

The church is “a people called” (**ekklesia**) with a mission to help people become followers of Jesus.

Becoming a follower (learner/disciple) depends upon Jesus’ credentials in the realm of the supernatural. (witnesses)

Jesus is this world’s only reason for hope beyond the visible.

3. **Will we embrace the two steps Jesus required of disciples?**

- **Baptize them... Will I embrace Jesus through baptism?**
- **Teach them my commands... Will I learn and follow?**

Are we willing to trust Jesus as the Lord of Life?

Baptism Represents My Dedication to Jesus for Life.

- **Baptism is not a ritual that secures anything.**
- **Baptism represents the homework I have done to decide whether or not Jesus is worthy to manage my soul.**
- **Baptism is my expressed public prayer for Jesus to do a work in my life that I cannot do without Him.**
- **Baptism represents my immersion into the work of Jesus and Body of Christ. I have a new life and family through identification with Jesus as the Savior of my Soul!**

Next Sunday, June 11, After Service in Chapel