



OKOTOKS EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM
ACTS 2:36-41; ROMANS 6:3-4
NOVEMBER 3, 2019

SERMON OUTLINE

November 3, 2019

Is Baptism Really That Important Today?

Matthew 3:13-17

The sermon title is a question, so what is the answer?

A look at the baptism of Jesus Christ

Matthew 3:13-17

Why was Jesus baptized?

1. It was a moment of _____. Matthew 3:13

Baptism is your moment of public declaration and commitment

to the _____ / _____ of Jesus

2. It was a moment of _____. Matthew 3:14-15

Romans 6:1-4

Jesus came to align Himself with John's _____

_____ movement. Will you?

3. It was a moment of _____. Mathew 3:16-17

Luke 4:18-19

The confirmation of God's _____. (verse 16)

The confirmation of God's _____. (verse 17)

Have you heard God's voice this morning?

Who should be baptized then?

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

MAIN POINT

Baptism is an important outward expression of inner faith. It is a symbol of the believer's death to sin and being raised to new life in Christ.

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

Connect the sermon to the study.

1. Why is it important to celebrate specific milestones (i.e. weddings, anniversaries, baptisms, graduations)?

2. What is your understanding of the significance of baptism? Why should someone get baptized?

Leader: In life we reach specific milestones that should be embraced and celebrated. For instance, birthdays, graduations, weddings, and anniversaries are all milestones that remind us where we've been and where we are going. The Christian faith also celebrates symbolic milestones that need to be publically celebrated. Baptism is one of those events. The willingness to be baptized is an outward expression of inward faith in Christ. Scripture makes it very clear that baptism is a powerful proclamation of the truth of what Christ has done in a person's life.

DIGGING DEEPER

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 2:36-41.

3. Why were the people initially perplexed when they heard Peter's teaching (see verses 14-35)? What question did they ask Peter and why?

4. How did Peter respond to the question? Why is Peter's response to their question as relevant for us as it was for them?

Leader: In Acts 2 we find Peter preaching to a crowd and making the case that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. Peter quoted from the Old Testament to make his point. He asserted that all of Israel should be assured that the crucified Christ was indeed both Lord and Messiah. The people were conscious-stricken by Peter's sermon and asked

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what they should do. Peter responded by telling them they needed to repent and be baptized.

5. Why is the term “repent” such an unpopular word in our culture? What does it mean to repent?

6. Why is repentance a crucial component of ongoing growth in Jesus?

Leader: Repentance is often an unpopular concept in our culture because it calls on an individual to recognize his or her sin and actively turn away from it to follow Christ. But Peter made it clear that repentance is a necessary component of salvation. With no repentance, there is no salvation. Peter also commanded his audience to be baptized. Baptism is rightly administered when an individual has made a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 6:3-4.

7. What did Paul say we are baptized into? At OEFC, we like to practice baptism by immersion as you saw on Sunday. How does baptism by immersion symbolize the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ? How does this symbolism continue to express itself in your life as a believer?

8. How do rights like baptism and communion, with all their symbolism, have a continuing impact on the church as a whole?

Leader: Baptism pictures an individual being buried with Christ (as he or she is submerged under water), and being raised to new life with Christ (as he or she emerges from the water). Baptism symbolizes the individual's union with Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Hence, the believer now has the power to live in the newness of life.

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

9. How serious do you take the practice of repentance and the Holy Spirit's work in your daily life?

10. If you have placed your faith in Jesus, has anything kept you from being baptized? If so, what?

PRAYER

Thank God for the ordinance of baptism as a means by which His followers can identify with Him in His death and resurrection. Pray for greater motivation to go and tell others the good news of the gospel, that they might be baptized and discipled as well.

MEMORIZE

³⁸ Peter replied, "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. – Acts 2:38

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PASSAGE

ACTS 2:36-41

2:36. Peter addressed his words specifically to Jews (the house of Israel) and affirmed that Jesus, whom they crucified, was both "Lord and Messiah." By calling Jesus "Lord and Messiah," Peter was staking the biggest possible claims. "Lord" is reserved in the Greek translation of the OT (the Septuagint) for "God" (Yahweh). Thus Peter says Jesus is God. Peter further noted that Jesus was the Messiah (anointed one), Israel's hope for salvation.

2:37. Peter's audience came under deep conviction because they realized their guilt in the execution of Jesus, plus they were convinced by Peter's passionate eyewitness testimony and his description of how the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection fulfilled OT prophecies about the promised Messiah. This prompted them to ask the question that anyone hearing the gospel should ask, "Brothers, what must we do?"

2:38. Peter's answer indicates three major components in conversion. One must repent, which means turning from sin; be baptized in the name of Jesus to publicly declare our repentance and faith and symbolically identify us with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; and have the Holy Spirit, given as a gift and seal of conversion, empowering the believer for the life of faith.

2:41. In response to Peter's preaching, Luke commented in an understated way that about 3,000 people were added to the community of believers. Note the close link between coming to faith and being baptized. There was apparently no delay between profession of faith and baptism. The

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large number of converts (“3,000”) was made possible by the huge crowds who had traveled to Jerusalem from all over the Mediterranean region for the Passover celebration.

ROMANS 6:3-4

6:3 In defense of his claim that believers have died to sin, Paul points out that through baptism we were baptized into Christ Jesus and his death. “Christ’s death for sin becomes our death to sin” (Robert H. Mounce).

6:4 Believers are symbolically buried with Christ through baptism and raised with him from the dead in order that we may walk in newness of life. This makes clear the absurdity of the idea that we can “continue in sin so that grace may multiply” (v. 1).