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**Date: April 30, 2023**

**Title: BAPTISM 101 (Baptism Basics or Obedience through Baptism)**

**Text: Mark 1:4-11**

*4"John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7And he preached, saying, 'After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' 9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son' with you I am well pleased.'"*

Today we are so pleased to have 8 this morning who will be baptized in the 11am service. They have expressed their desire to follow Jesus in water baptism.

JOKE: The story is told of a drunk who stumbled into a baptismal service on Sunday afternoon that was being held down by the river. He proceeded to walk into the water and stood right next to the preacher. The preacher turned and noticed the old drunk and said, "Mister, are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk looked back and said, "Yes, Preacher. I sure am." The preacher then dunked the fellow under the water and pulled him right back up. "Have you found Jesus?" the preacher asked. "No, I didn't!" said the drunk. The preacher then dunked him under for a bit longer, brought him up and said, "Now, brother, have you found Jesus?" "No, I did not Preacher." The preacher in disgust held the man under for nearly a minute this time, brought him up out of the water and said in a harsh tone, "Friend, are you sure you haven't found Jesus yet?" The old drunk wiped his eyes and said to the preacher, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

This morning we won't be looking for Jesus in the water. Rather, those being baptized today have already found Jesus. When an UNbeliever is baptized - all you get is wet. Rather this is an outward expression of an inner work. The act of water baptism (being immersed in water in response to receiving salvation) is a very important step in the Christian life. In scripture it is typically an early step. The Word says, "Repent and be baptized." In Matthew 3:13-17, we see the Lord Jesus Himself coming to His cousin John to be baptized, to "fulfill all righteousness." He then went on to establish baptism as an eternal ordinance for His church, calling EVERY believer to follow in His footsteps. *"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19, NIV).

**1. WHAT IS BAPTISM?** The word means - to baptize; to dip; to immerse; to wash; to submerge; to place into. Original word: *baptisma*, "baptism," consisting of the processes of immersion, submersion, and emergence (from *bapto*, "to dip"), is used of John's baptism. ILLUSTRATION (Chuck Swindoll) – The minister of a church of a different denomination contacted the pastor of a large downtown Baptist church and made an unusual request. He had several folks who had recently joined his church who preferred to be baptized by immersion rather than sprinkling, the church's normal mode of baptism. The minister requested not only the use of their baptistry but that the Baptist pastor himself baptize those who came. This posed a dilemma. What if those being baptized were NOT born again? Since it was the pastor's conviction that ONLY Christians should be baptized, he realized he couldn't with good conscience cooperate with the plan, but he wished to handle his answer with tact so as not to offend the other minister. It is told that he wrote a letter, a masterpiece of grace, in which he included this humorous statement: "We don't take in laundry, but we'll be happy to loan you our tub." Practical Application: In this Scripture, two kinds of baptism are noted: There is the BAPTISM WITH WATER for repentance; the baptism that was given by John. There is the BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY GHOST and FIRE, the baptism that is given by Christ. Note the distinctions between the two baptisms: John's baptism was

both a preparation and a symbol of the spiritual baptism that Jesus was to bring. John's water baptism meant two things. It symbolized cleansing from all sin. A person was being prepared for the cleansing that Christ would provide. It symbolized separation or dedication. A person was setting his life apart to God in a renewed spirit of dedication. He was committing himself to the Christ about whom John was preaching. As we said earlier, Baptism in our OUTWARD expression of an INNER work. What does a WEDDING RING indicate? It is an outward sign that a person is married. A military uniform is an outward sign that a person is involved in that particular branch of the service. Similarly, water baptism is a symbol designed by God to identify a person as a disciple of Jesus Christ. When we are saved, we are spiritually baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27 - *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*) and into His body, the church (1 Corinthians 12:13 - *"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit."*) Baptism in water is an outward representation of these inward realities. In Biblical symbolism, water represents inner cleansing (Ephesians 5:26 - *"that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word."* Hebrews 10:22 - *"let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."*) and spiritual rebirth (John 3:5 - *"Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'" Water baptism is, in essence, a funeral. It is an act of faith in which we testify, both to God and to the world, that the person we were before is dead and buried, and... We are raised as a new creation in Christ. Romans 6:4 - *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."* Colossians 2:12 *"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."**

**2. WHY BE BAPTIZED? A. The Word says to be baptized.** Acts 3:38 - When the people responded to Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost, the first thing he instructs them to do is, *"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ..."* In Acts 8:26-40 - where Philip leads the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ. As they finish their discussion, the eunuch enthusiastically asks, *"What is hindering me from being baptized?"* To which Philip replies *"If you believe with all your heart, you may."* Then they came to a body of water, and Philip promptly baptized him. **B. Jesus was baptized.** In Matthew 3:13-17, we see Jesus Himself coming to His cousin John to be baptized. Matthew 3:13-17, NIV - <sup>13</sup>*"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup>But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' <sup>15</sup>Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented. <sup>16</sup>As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" We will always do well to emulate Christ. He is our ultimate example. He will never lead us in the wrong direction. It is proper. It is to fulfill all righteousness. It pleases God. **C. Jesus said to be baptized and to baptize.** Mark 16:16, NIV - *"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."* Jesus said before ascending into heaven that we must make disciples of all nations and baptize them. Matthew 28:19, NIV - *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."**

**3. IS BAPTISM NECESSARY? A. Baptism is an issue of obedience.** I love the account in Acts 8 where God put it into Philip's heart to leave a great harvest revival in Samaria. <sup>5</sup>*"Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. <sup>6</sup>When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. <sup>7</sup>With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. <sup>8</sup>So there was great joy in that city."* This is a Holy Ghost revival. Miracles are taking place. Evil spirits are being excised. Paralytics and cripples are healed. Verse 12 tells us that men and women were being saved and then baptized. <sup>15</sup>*"But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."* *"When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup>because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John placed their hands*

on them, and they received the Holy Spirit." Then in verse 26 an angel of the Lord tells Philip to go to the desert outside Jerusalem so he could talk to one person about Jesus Christ. I love the account because of what Philip did. Philip went. He didn't question God. He didn't try to put God off. He doesn't ignore God. He doesn't argue with God about how he needed to stay where he was. Anyone here ever question God, put Him off or argue with Him? Philip had something called "instant obedience." He heard, he obeyed, and he went. The result was another heart won for salvation through Jesus. I believe that if there was more instant obedience today, there would be a lot more fruit today. But there has to be a place where obedience begins. And that is what we have been talking about this morning. Luke 7:29-30, NIV - <sup>29</sup>*All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John.* <sup>30</sup>*But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.* We can walk in the blessing of God by being baptized like John baptized, OR... We can be like the Pharisees and reject God's purpose for us by not being baptized. **B. Baptism is a command, not an option.** Let me ask it this way - If baptism is an act of obedience - AND IT IS - and we are disobedient, are we saved? I want to emphasize that it is not the water that saves you. What saves you is your surrendering to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. The baptism in water just shows that you are willing to be the obedient servant He expects you to be. In my study of water baptism, at least in every reference I remember reading, baptism immediately followed a person's acceptance of Christ as their Savior. In Acts 2:41, Peter preached his first sermon. 3000 were saved. Those who were saved were then baptized. Philip explains the gospel to the Eunuch. He believes with all his heart. They go to a body of water and the eunuch is baptized. In Acts 22 the Apostle Paul has a dramatic experience with God. He is blinded by a light and God speaks to him. Then Paul replies, *"What shall I do, Lord?" I asked.* <sup>10</sup>*Get up, the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.'* <sup>11</sup>*My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.* <sup>12</sup>*A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there.* <sup>13</sup>*He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him.* <sup>14</sup>*Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth.* <sup>15</sup>*You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.* <sup>16</sup>*And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.*"

**CONCLUSION.** I'd like to ask the same question, "And now what are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized!" The Word tells to be baptized. Jesus was baptized. Jesus tells us in the Word to be baptized. If you believe that Jesus is God's Son and you have made Him Lord - WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? It's time to express outwardly what has taken place inwardly. It's time to obey the command to be baptized.