

LIVING OUT YOUR BAPTISM *Part 1*

Matthew 20:20–22

20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. 21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. 22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

When the sons of Zebedee (James and John) came to Jesus asking for honor (to sit at His right hand and His left) Jesus responded to them with a question of His own, “Are you able to drink of the cup I shall drink of and be baptized in the baptism I am baptized with?” Although the men claimed they were “able,” we suspect that they really didn’t know what they were agreeing to.

The same is true of us today. Many of us have agreed to take the cup and have agreed to be baptized, but we really don’t know what that means. When most Christians think of the ‘cup’ and ‘baptism’ they think of Communion and Baptism, two ordinances of the Church. However, the ‘cup’ and the ‘baptism’ Jesus refers to here represent something far greater than some religious exercise. When Jesus asked if they were able to ‘drink of His cup’ and ‘be baptized with His baptism’ He’s talking about His death. Are you able (will you submit to) My DEATH?

This is a reminder to us that Communion and Baptism aren’t just ceremonies. They are intended to be a way of life. Every day we’re confronted with an opportunity to ‘take the cup’ or ‘submit to baptism.’

This is what I want to talk to you today about—what it truly means to submit to baptism OR...

LIVING OUT YOUR BAPTISM

What does it mean to Live Your Baptism? Well, we need to go to [1Peter 3](#) because there Peter gives us a description of baptism that (I believe) we can apply to our everyday life.

1 Peter 3:18–21

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

First of all, notice how Peter compares baptism to the flood in Noah's day. Meaning, just as the waters of the flood *saved* Noah and his family, baptism is able to *save* us! Second, Peter points out that baptism doesn't save because of what's *in the water*. (There's nothing special or magical about the water.) Baptism saves because of what happens *in the person*!

1 Peter 3:21

21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

The phrase, "answer of a good conscience" can be interpreted "a response that arises from a good conscience".

1 Peter 3:21 Modern English Version

21 Figuratively this is like baptism, which also saves us now. It is not washing off the dirt from the body, but a response to God from a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Therefore, baptism is essentially a good response TOWARDS GOD. In other words, Baptism is NOT primarily directed to people. Baptism is mostly directed to God! Baptism is essentially about learning how to respond to God in times of judgment and correction! (The waters of the flood represent judgment.)

How should we respond to God in times of judgment? There are basically 3 ways we are to respond to God in times of judgment. (By the way, each of these 3 ways are all represented in the life of Noah!)

RESPONSE #1: AGREEMENT WITH GOD

When God said to Noah, "The Earth is corrupt." Noah *agreed* and didn't argue or try to justify himself/mankind.

When you agree with God about your sin you're submitting to your baptism!

Luke 7:29–30

29 And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

Luke 7:29 New Living Translation

29 When they heard this, all the people—even the tax collectors—agreed that God’s way was right, for they had been baptized by John.

God’s word (and His judgments) has a way of, like water, exposing the sin in our life. When He does what do you do? Do you try to justify yourself? dismiss it? Deflect (take the light off you and put it on someone else)? If you do, then you’re *not* submitting to your baptism!

RESPONSE #2: ALIGNMENT WITH GOD

When God told Noah to build an ark, Noah *aligned* himself with God and OBEYED—even down to the last detail!

You know you’re submitting to baptism whenever you conform to God’s will.

Matthew 3:13–15

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

In every trial there will always be an opportunity (an invitation) to align yourself with the will of God. When you do it’s like living out your baptism! We should add that it’s not enough to simply obey God ONCE. You have to CONTINUE to do His will all the way through the trial, no matter how long it takes. Remember Noah faithfully obeyed God (built the ark) for 120 years!

RESPONSE #3: ACCEPTANCE OF HIS PLAN

By entering the waters (through the ark), Noah *accepted* God’s plan of salvation.

Whenever you accept God’s method of salvation you are submitting to baptism!

Matthew 26:39

39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

The word “escape” doesn’t mean to avoid. Instead, it means a way out or through. Therefore, God provides a way for us to go THROUGH our trials! Moreover, when we accept His method/plan of getting through our trials we are submitting to baptism!

What do you do when you’re in a trial? Do you run? Do you hide? Do you seek God’s plan or do you seek another, less difficult, way?

It’s only when we AGREE with God, ALIGN ourselves with His will, and ACCEPT His plan that we’re “drinking the cup” and being “baptized with His baptism”!

When we do these things God will do for us what He did for Noah—saved us (separate us) from the corruption of our old life. Moreover, when we emerge from the waters we will walk in newness of life!

But, for this to happen baptism has to become more than an ordinance to us. It can’t just be something we do in front of men. Baptism has to become a posture, one that causes us to maintain a proper attitude (conscience) towards God. We cannot collapse under the pressure or retreat when we are tried. We must submit to baptism by agreeing with God’s word, aligning ourselves with Him (by following His commands), and by accept and enter into His plan for our salvation. When we do this God will cleanse (remove) those ‘old’ things from our life and cause us to walk in the newness of life!