

Unsolved Mysteries

Isaiah 42:1-9; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 3:13-17

Everyone loves a good _____! It's almost _____ when all the chaos, confusion, and questions are resolved in a nice, neat, manageable little package. *What's your favorite?* _____

Why? Because _____ doesn't usually work that way. Life, and even the _____ faith(!), often leaves us in the _____ of unresolved conflicts, problems, injustices, geopolitical events, and all manner of _____.

Which is why the TV show "Unsolved Mysteries" was so successful for so long. It _____ reality and _____ us into the story.

The _____ of Jesus confronts us with "unsolved mysteries" to wrestle with. Consider John the Baptist:

How is it that he of all people would even consider _____ a request of Jesus?!

It must be that he didn't know or understand this part of God's _____. Which leads to an even bigger question!

How is it that John of all people didn't _____ this part of God's plan?!

It must mean that it's ok to have _____ and even get things _____ from time to time.

How does John respond to confusion and questions? He _____. He _____ that Jesus knows more than him. This isn't the last time this will happen. (Matt 11, Matt 14) Each time, John _____ and _____.

The unsolved mysteries don't stop with John. But they change a bit because we know things John didn't.

Jesus himself suffered at the hands of evil men and relented, _____ God.

God remained _____. He delivered Jesus from the _____ and raised him from the dead.

If John and Jesus are allowed to suffer, we should _____ nothing less. (John 16:33; 1 Peter 4:12-19)

Jesus commands a new baptism for forgiving _____ and delivering the _____ of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38-39)

That must mean Jesus' baptism was more than just checking a _____, and so is ours.

We bring our _____ to the water and leave wearing the robe of Christ's righteousness. (Gal 3:27)

Because Jesus brought his _____ to the water and left carrying our sins. (Isaiah 53:6; 1 Pet 2:24)

We ourselves are now called to _____; to _____ God.

He calls us out of our _____ ways of living and into _____ ways of living.

Our _____ still clings to the old. It feels comfortable and familiar. We question the need for the new.

Today, God calls us to _____ John's example and relent and trust, even when we don't understand.

We are reminded to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus into his baptismal waters and ours, relenting and trusting God's plan and purposes, given his _____ track record.

Even more so we remember his love for _____.

No matter how often we _____ he calls us to wash and be made new for, "...a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench..." (Is 42:3)

What questions and mysteries are occupying your mind?

What does God's Word say about them?

What new paths is the Lord leading you towards?

How is God calling you to trust him, as John and as Jesus did?