

Astonished at Jesus' Baptism 2/15/26

- **WELCOME**  
Men's prayer breakfast starts Feb 26 at 6am
- Men's event at Chockee Farms March 6
- Partnership experience march 1-22

## PRAYER TIME

### Psalm 105

**Vs 1a** *Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;*

Throughout Scripture, we are continually commanded to give thanks to God! As our Creator, He understands what we need to experience true joy. Giving thanks acts like a circuit breaker, sparking joyful affections in our hearts. It dismantles entitlement, fosters humility, and, as Psalm 100 declares, ushers us into His presence!

What are you thankful to God for?

Pray: Lord, I give you thanks for \_\_\_\_\_

**Vs 1b-2, 5** *make known his deeds among the peoples! 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! 5 Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,*

When we combine verses 2 and 5, we are encouraged to remember and recall God's deeds and wonderous works in our lives.

What are those works He has done?

Pray: God, I remember when you \_\_\_\_\_ for me/us.

**Vs 4** *Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!*

Consider the needs in your life that only God's strength can meet. What are those places where you're desperate for His provision? Here are a few things to consider:

- Healing from deep emotional wounds
- Overcoming addiction
- Provision in financial desperation
- Salvation for a friend or loved one
- Restoration of broken relationships
- Courage in the face of fear

Discipleship for your children  
Wisdom for difficult decisions  
Grace for a stronger marriage  
Endurance in prolonged suffering

Pray: Lord, in your strength, I seek your provision in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Vs 43-45** *So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing. 44 And he gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil, 45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!*

Now, consider this: God's deliverance comes with a call to obedience. Verse 45 says He blessed His people that they might keep His statutes and observe His laws. What's one way you can respond to His goodness by aligning your life with His will today? It could be an act of kindness, a step of faith, or simply resting in His peace.

God help me to honor you through my obedience in \_\_\_\_\_ today.

Forgiving someone, serving Him, truth telling, blessing others, doing THAT hard thing You want me to do, surrender to HIM, baptism, sharing the gospel with someone...

**As we sing this next song, I want you to think of the things you've asked from Him and worship PRAISE the LORD for his provision!**

## INTRO

Review and Astonished

Flashback

## OPEN

Zig Ziglar tells the story of the ham in the pan

## Matthew 3:13–17

**Vs 13** *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.*

- Jesus traveled between 60-80 miles of rugged terrain to be baptized... it was extremely inconvenient for Him.. but did not hinder him.

**Vs 14** *John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"*

- John's baptism was a baptism of repentance – different than Christian baptism practiced later on in the NT and church history.

- The symbolism of John's baptism likely had its roots in OT purification rituals
- Baptism had also long been administered to Gentile proselytes coming into Judaism.
- The baptism of John symbolized repentance.
- Jews accepting John's baptism were admitting they had been as Gentiles and needed to become the people of God genuinely, inwardly (an amazing admission, given their hatred of Gentiles).
- The people were repenting in anticipation of the Messiah's arrival
- BUT... Jesus had nothing to repent of! What was He thinking?
- This is ASTONISHING

**Vs 15** *But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.*

- Matthew's audience were the Hebrews (The Jewish people).
- To best show who Jesus is, Matthew regularly presented Jesus as the better Moses who accomplished more!
- Moses was used by God to deliver from bondage. Jesus was God delivering us from sin.

For example:

- Moses came out of Egypt, Jesus returned from Egypt
- Moses (& Israel) immediately enter 40 years of wilderness, Jesus immediately enters 40 days of wilderness (ch 4)
- Moses went on a mountain to get the law of God, Jesus went on Mount of Beatitudes teaching the fulfillment of the law of God (ch 5-7)
- Moses passed through waters of red sea symbolizing deliverance from slavery,
- Jesus passed through waters of baptism symbolizing deliverance from sin
- AND while doing so, inaugurates the new-covenant version we observe and celebrate today
- Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3 serves as the turning point that transforms John's baptism of repentance into Christian baptism—just as Jesus transforms the Passover meal into the Lord's Supper?
- In both cases, Jesus steps into an existing Jewish rite, fulfills it perfectly, identifies with His people, and inaugurates the new-covenant version we observe today.

**Vs 16-17** *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*

- We get to share in that love from our good Heavenly Father because of our union with Christ.
- Every aspect of God's relationship to believers is in some way connected to our relationship with Christ

What is the meaning of baptism? why do we baptize? How do we baptize? Who should be baptized and who should do the baptizing?

### **1. What is the meaning of baptism?**

- a. Baptism symbolizes our new identity in union with Christ through His death, burial and resurrection.
- Baptism is a *symbol of beginning the Christian life* – the gospel made visible.

**Romans 6:3–4 (ESV)** **3** *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?* **4** *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

- Union with Christ – what belongs to Him now belongs to us.
- Illustration: Jaye and me – the wedding band is a symbol that this is the case. The wedding ring doesn't make me married, but it shows publicly that I am married
- Baptism is the symbol of our union with Christ.
- The symbol is also a profession of faith... an outward sign of inward regeneration.
- b. Baptism symbolizes our sins being washed away.

**(Acts 22:16)** *"Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins calling on his name"*

### **c. Does baptism save us?**

- To say that baptism or any other action is *necessary* for salvation is to say that we are not justified by faith alone, but by faith plus a certain "work," the work of baptism.
- The apostle Paul would have opposed the idea that baptism is necessary for salvation just as strongly as he opposed the similar idea that circumcision was necessary for salvation (Gal. 5:1–12).

- Another reason why baptism is not necessary for salvation is that our justification from sins takes place at the point of saving faith, not at the point of water baptism, which usually occurs later.

## 2. Why do we baptize?

**Matthew 28:19 (ESV) 19** *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

**Jesus' last command should be our first priority**

- Baptism doesn't save us, but it is a sign of obedience and a demonstration of our union with Christ.
- It's not just a symbol of the gospel, not just a profession of your faith, but also a command to be obeyed.

## 3. How do we baptize?

- a. Mode

Moede means: way, method, or manner.

In other words, do we sprinkle or immerse?

**38** *And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water,*

- The Greek word 'Baptizo' means "to plunge, dip, immerse" something in water.
- Go back to the meaning – death burial and resurrection. But baptism by sprinkling or pouring simply misses this symbolism.
- The Didache taught to dunk 3 times for Father, son and Spirit but also made room for pouring etc.
- Give examples of old church fathers baptizing in the nude
  - Doesn't make the testimony video as scary now...
- Didache says to fast before
- Bringing something old to discard and being wrapped in white towel symbolizing new life in Christ and His righteousness.

b. Who should be baptized?

- Those who make a believable profession in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- After Peter's sermon at Pentecost we read, "Those who received his word were baptized" (Acts 2:41).
- Cornelius and his household...Then Peter "commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 10:47–48).
- **Acts 16:14–15 (ESV)** **14** ...*The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay."* And she prevailed upon us.

c. Who can baptize?

- We should recognize here that Scripture simply does not specify any restrictions on who can perform the ceremony of baptism
- We believe that non-pastor/clergy can baptize and should baptize according to the Great Commission;
- Phillip was not an apostle, elder, pastor – he was a proto-type deacon that was later called an evangelist.
- BEST DONE IN the presence of the local church:
- Since baptism is a sign of beginning the Christian life and therefore of beginning life in the true church as well, it is fitting that the local church be assembled to give testimony to this fact and to give visible welcome to the baptized person

d. Should I be re-baptized on the right side of my salvation?

- The Scriptures don't speak to this, so there is some liberty here. If you were sprinkled or if you experienced infant baptism and want to be immersed into a believers baptism, then that seems fitting.
- If you were not truly converted when you were baptized and you just feel compelled to do so, then prayerfully consider it
- If you keep 'getting re-saved and baptized' don't keep doing that.

**e. When should I be baptized?**

- We believe it best that believers be baptized very soon after a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

**f. What gospel is Jesus actually portraying in His baptism?**

- In the beginning, God created all things including humanity
- Adam sinned against God and he is our representative making us sinners at birth
- God is HOLY, JUST. Holy in that He cannot be in the presence of sin
- JUST in that He MUST punish sin – which means, as sinners, we deserve His punishment
- YET He is merciful! – Not giving us what we deserve.
- God Himself steps out of eternity and into humanity, into depravity in the second person of the Trinity, in Jesus, and takes the penalty for our wrongdoing.
- On the cross He takes our sin upon Himself as a sacrificial substitute.
- God, in His justice, pours His wrath on Jesus for the punishment of sin (past, present, future)
- Jesus, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the trinity, gives us what we don't deserve, which is forgiveness, and his approval before the Father – MERCY and GRACE
- To solidify it all, The Father raises Him from the dead 3 days later.
- Death, burial, resurrection which are all symbolized in Jesus baptism and our baptism.
- Christianity is not survival of the fittest. It's not the most intelligent or the most spiritual. Instead, the fittest steps down and sacrifices himself for the survival of the weakest.

## **CONCLUSION**

**Religious people find God useful. Christians find God beautiful.**

- If you've been feared into obedience to God, you will always have to be feared to obey him
- If you've been shamed and guilted into obedience to God, you will always have to be feared to obey him
- Today, let LOVE to be your motive to obey God.

## **QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:**

1. What was the significance of Jesus baptism – why is it astonishing?
2. Have you been baptized? Discuss.