

The Disciple-Making Process
Part 3 – Your Part in Baptizing
Matt 28:18-20

Introduction:

- John the Baptist preached a baptism of r_____ for the forgiveness of sins to a Jewish audience.
 1. Jews had various practices of baptism already in place
 - a. In obedience to the written Law of M_____ (see Heb 6:2 alludes to these practices – *instructions about washings* [KJV uses the Greek word – *baptisms*])
 - 1) The High Priest had to b_____ his body before putting on the priestly garments to offer the sacrifice for sins (Lev 16:4,24,26)
 - 2) Those people that came into contact with anything unclean had to b_____ in water (Lev 15)
 - 3) Baptism meant one thing - immersion
 - b. In obedience to the traditional law of leading r_____ (found in the Mishnah, a 3rd century A.D. document of traditional practices that were in place before Christ came) - Converts to Judaism were to be baptized
 - 1) First, they were to be c_____
 - 2) Second, 7 days later in the presence of witnesses, converts immersed themselves t_____ times after removing their clothes.
 2. John's call for immersion had unique characteristics.
 - a. Candidates kept their clothes on
 - b. Candidates did not baptize themselves but were baptized by J_____ (also see Jn 4:1,2)
 - c. Candidates must r_____ from sin and believe in the coming Messiah (Matt 3:6-8; Acts 19:4)
 - d. Candidates were immersed _____ time
- Christian baptism developed from this. After Jesus rose from the dead He instructed His followers to make disciples by baptizing them in the n_____ of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 1. How is this a strategy of making disciples?
 2. What is your connection to carrying out this strategy?

Baptism is the Public Ceremony of Commitment Established By Christ, So Make A Big Deal About it!

- Baptism does not affect spiritual change in you
 1. It is not a means of grace - *for by grace you are saved through f_____* (Eph 2:8)
 2. It does not wash away s_____ – *baptism now saves you, but not in the sense of washing away sinful filth from the flesh* (I Pet 3:21)
- Baptism is a p_____ commitment to God
 1. I Pet 3:21 – *baptism now saves [rescues] you...in the sense of being an appeal [answer, pledge] to God of a good conscience* (baptism publicly identifies you with God and no longer with the world)
 2. Every example in the book of Acts shows that shortly after believing, that person was baptized – baptism was a b_____ deal! (e.g. Acts 2:41; 8:12; 8:35-38; 9:9,17,18; 10:44-48)
- How do you make a big deal out of baptism?
 1. If you know of a new believer who has yet to be baptized:
 - a. Show them Matt 28:18 and the book of Acts
 - b. Use NAMB pamphlet, *Let the Celebration Continue*, which provides a six day simple study on six topics, one being baptism (available; can order 800-233-1123)
 2. Emphasize that baptism means one thing - immersion (Rom 6:3,4)
 - a. Pictures Jesus' d_____ for sins (descending into the water), His burial (under the water) and resurrection (emerging from the water)

- b. Pictures a believer's death of their o_____ self that used to serve sin (descending into the water), the burial of all sin (under the water) and the commitment to walk in the new way, Christ's way (emerging out of the water)
- 3. If you have not been immersed but have been a Christian for a long time, get _____ (urge others to do the same)

Any Representative From the Church Can Administer Baptism, But Only Believers Present Are Fulfilling Christ's Strategy

- The belief that only pastors can administer baptism is a t_____ belief not a biblical teaching
 1. The strategy of baptism was given to all f_____ of Christ in Matt 28:18-20
 2. Any believer can administer baptism as long as they are recognized as a representative of the c_____
- Believers must a_____ baptismal ceremonies of their church to fulfill Christ's strategy
 1. Only believers who are p_____ at the baptismal ceremony are fulfilling Christ's strategy
 - a. Imagine a person coming to a full church, accepting Christ, but only half the church shows up for his baptism (does this reflect Christ's strategy?)
 - b. Imagine a person coming to a full church, accepting Christ, and then at his baptism the church is even more full (what would this communicate to him?)
 2. If we enthusiastically fulfill this strategy through attendance, those we baptize will be more apt to be enthusiastic about being a part of the church. – that is how disciples multiply

Conclusion:

- Baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 1. In Acts they baptized in the name of J_____ (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5) – there is not one case using "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit"
 2. Jesus is not the Father, nor the Holy Spirit, but the S_____
 - a. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have o_____ name (notice: name not names of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
 - b. Name refers to c_____, who He actually is!
 - 1) Heb 1:3 – Jesus is the e_____ representation of God's being.
 - 2) Jn 14:9 – Jesus said the if you have seen Him you have seen the F_____ (it is because He is the image of the i_____ God – Col 1:15)
 3. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Therefore there is no difference between baptizing in the name of Jesus and in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- There is only o_____ baptism (Eph 4:4) – are you fulfilling Christ's strategy?