

The Story Church - 5.7.23

Down to the River: *The Purpose and Power of Baptism*

Part 1 of 4: *Baptism as a Beginning*

SERIES INTRO: “By baptism, we enter into a covenant with God, an everlasting covenant, we are admitted into the church, made members of Christ, made children of God. By the water of baptism, we are born again.” - John Wesley

The movement of Jesus that has swept over the entire world was born in blood and water. For thousands of years, believers from every nation and race, whether rich or poor, male or female, young or old, having been redeemed by the blood of Christ, were initiated into Christ’s Church through this mysterious water rite called baptism. What is the meaning of this strange, ancient ritual, and why does it still matter today? Join The Story through the month of May as we explore the purpose and power of baptism!

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Have you been baptized? If so, what do you remember about your baptism? If not, what are the reasons or obstacles that have prevented you from doing so?

Acts 2:37-47

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

We run to Baptism with _____

In Scripture what relationship do we see between faith in Jesus and baptism?

How is baptism our first step of obedience?

Baptism isn’t _____

Who are your faith mentors? How have they supported you in your relationship with Jesus?

How is baptism really a picture of God's faithfulness to us?

Baptism is the _____

NT Wright calls baptism *the starting point for the Christian pilgrimage*. Do you agree or disagree? How have you seen this play out in your life?

In Acts 2:42-47 we see the birth of the Church. What is the relationship between the Church and baptism and the Holy Spirit?

How does baptism serve as a commissioning service?

Organize these three concept below in the order in which they occur in the christian life

Baptism, Discipleship, Faith,

1 _____ -> 2 _____ -> 3 _____

Acts 22:16

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

How is God calling you to respond **today**?

Your Notes: