

LITTLE THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR BIG MISSION

A Devotional Theology of Mission part 5

Matthew 28:29; Acts 2:41 Acts 8:12; 36 Acts 9:18 Acts 10:48

Mark 16:15 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

THAT is our BIG mission! This morning, as a part of ONE BIG DAY we’re going to continue our series titled “little thoughts about our big mission” by looking at a **specific component** of our Big Mission that’s a **big part** of our gathering today. Look at Matthew’s account of the great commission.

Matthew 28:19–20 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,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus said that baptism was integral to His Mission. And in the book of Acts we see how the 1st century Christians made sure that baptism was as integral and essential to their mission as proclaiming the Gospel and making disciples.

Acts 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Talk about ONE BIG DAY!

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Acts 9:18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;

Acts 10:48 And he (Peter) commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Acts 16:31–33 And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

Because **baptism** is an integral and essential part of the mission of Jesus I think it would be great for us to look at the WHAT, the WHY, the WHO and the HOW of baptism.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is a Gospel Proclamation

Romans 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Jesus is God, the Creator of all things; He came down from heaven; He took upon Himself our humanity — human flesh (incarnation). As a man He openly and repeatedly claimed to be the One, True and Living God. As a man He lived a sinless life — lived the life we should live but have failed to live. Then He went to the cross where He died in our place for our sin. God came in Human flesh so that he might become our substitute. Jesus endured the death we deserve! The Gospel tells us that we are more sinful and broken than we ever dared to believe, and at the same time tells us that we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared to hope. All of that is symbolized and celebrated in baptism!

Baptism is all about Jesus — His death, His burial, and His resurrection for our sins. Even as the Gospel is **proclaimed** through preaching, it is **shown** and **symbolized** through Baptism. Baptism has zero meaning apart from Jesus! If it isn't all about Jesus your just getting wet!

Baptism proclaims the reality that we are united with Jesus in His death and His resurrection.

Romans 6:4 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.

When we baptize people, we're not only saying that Jesus died for them; Jesus was buried for them, and Jesus rose for them. We're saying that the one being baptized loves Jesus, and that Jesus loves them. The person getting baptized is saying — *“Jesus is my God who loved me; and when He died on the cross I died with Him; When He was buried I was buried with Him — and when He rose from the grave — conquered death I rose with Him! My faith is in Him — and my salvation is from him.”*

Baptism tells us that the grave doesn't have the final word!

Romans 6:5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Baptism not only says that by faith in Jesus we are forgiven of our sins — it tells us that by faith in Jesus there is a resurrection for us. By baptism we are showing the truth of the Gospel that says each and every believer has a living hope beyond the grave. I hope that everyone here leaves knowing that there's something worse than dying — and that's dying apart from Jesus Christ. Believing with your heart on the Lord Jesus doesn't mean that we are freed from suffering and death in this life. It doesn't mean that we won't grieve for those who suffer and die. But the Gospel of Jesus gives us hope beyond the grave because Jesus conquered death.

John 14:19 Because I live, you also will live.

Revelation 1:17-18 ...“Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's

power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Baptism tells us that Jesus in Jesus we get a whole new life!

Romans 6:6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Sin is not just failures or faults or flaws. Sin is rooted in the choice to set up our *Kingdoms of One* up over and against the Kingdom of God. It is choosing our will above His will. Sin is, tolerating condoning and accommodating our *Kingdoms of One*.

Baptism tells us that Jesus came to dethrone us — and enthrone God as King once again in our hearts. Baptism tells us that because Jesus died for our sin, we can put our sin to death.

By the death and resurrection of Jesus we can be set free from the rule and dominion of drunkenness, drug abuse, sexual sin and perversion, addiction, gambling, gluttony, pride, a lust for control (OCD - eating disorders) **because** Jesus died for those sins and He rose from the grave so that those idols can be put to death. Just as Jesus walked away from the tomb His resurrection life enables us to walk away from our old life and walk in what Paul calls the *“newness of life.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

DON'T MISS THIS — A Christian is not a perfect person; but they are a **new person**. Their old life is buried with Christ. Their new life is risen with Christ — and they are **on their way** to perfection in the presence of Christ.

The Word of God is saying that all of that is pictured in baptism! All of that theology is unpacked in that one act of obedience!

HOW DO WE BAPTIZE?

The New Testament was written in Greek. βαπτίζω *baptizō*; to dip.

Thayer Definition: to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)

In Greek literature and history, if a ship would sink, they would say it got “baptized.” It went under the water. Here at Metro we take the literal meaning of the word to inform the mode of baptism, so we *immerse* the man or woman, put them under the water.

WHY DO WE BAPTIZE / GET BAPTIZED?

We tackled that at the beginning: Jesus was very careful to command His disciples to baptize those who believed the Gospel

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

And because Jesus commanded it — the early church did it.

Baptism is a big deal because baptism is “going public!” Going public about your faith in Jesus is an act of obedience. And in that act of obedience we are a witness of His sacrificial love and His victory over sin and death.

WHO DO WE BAPTIZE?

There are two basic views/positions on baptism. One is called *paedo-baptism*. *Paedo* is Latin for *child or infant*. So it’s the name given to infant baptism. Catholics, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Anglicans and some Methodists baptize infants. They validate infant baptism by saying that baptism is the New Covenant version of circumcision. (In the Old Covenant every Jewish male was circumcised when he was 8 days old.)

The other position is called *credo-baptism* — I like to call it “the right view!” *Credo*, in Latin, means “I believe.” So, it’s the name given to believer’s baptism. It means that baptism is for those who are old enough to demonstrate and articulate Christian faith. **Age matters — only to the extent** that the individual

can grasp the truth of the Gospel and make a decision to trust, love and live for Jesus.

Last question —

SHOULD I BE RE-BAPTIZED?

If you were baptized as a child or baptized when you really were not living for Jesus; if it was meaningless, or even a fake profession of faith, but now you love Jesus and trust Him alone to save you — YES!

For those of you who are not-yet Christian — the problem is sin and there is **nothing** that you can do to save yourself. Here's the Good News: The Gospel says that God came to do what you can't do! Jesus is God come in human flesh — He died and rose to conquer sin and death. Trust in Jesus. Give your life to Jesus today and become a Christian — and by the authority that we have in the name of Jesus we'll baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, showing everyone you've placed your trust in Jesus to save you!

CLOSE

I've baptized people who were terminally ill in my backyard in my pool. I've baptized soldiers ready to deploy in someone's spa. I've baptized people in a stream, in a lake — in the Jordan River. But this morning we're going to do it right here on the property so as a community of believers in the Lord Jesus — can celebrate what God has done, and worship God for what He has done.

Valerie and I still remember the time we were baptized together on a summer evening (Friday) at Pirate's Cove in Corona Del Mar by a pastor named John Hilton. We were two of the hundreds getting baptized; and thousands of people, including our dearest friends, were watching and cheering for us and celebrating with us.

We want to do the same today! And as people are being baptized — and as we cheer for them and celebrate with them we're saying, "*Jesus, You **are** mighty*

*save! Thank you Jesus, for saving **that** person! Thank you Jesus, for **saving me!**
Please save many, many, many more!"*