

## Called to Be...Born Again

Mark 1:9-11 (p. 1014 in Pew Bible)

### Introduction

- A. Apart from Christmas and Easter, one of the most illustrated events in Jesus' life is His baptism.
- B. Many people were coming to John to be baptized by him in the Jordan River (Mark 1:4-5).

### I. Jesus was no \_\_\_\_\_ person.

- A. Mark 1:11 – *"You are my beloved **Son**; with you I am well pleased."*
- B. Isaiah 42:1 – *Behold my **servant**, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights.*

### II. In Jesus, we see that Baptism is a State of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. More than merely the son of Mary and Joseph, at His baptism, Jesus is identified as God's Son.
- B. In baptism, the God of all creation bestows upon us a *new* identity—we are *born again!*
  - 1. Titus 3:4-5 – *But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **he saved us**, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit...*
  - 2. Ephesians 2:1 (NASB) – *...**you were dead** in your trespasses and sins.*
  - 3. Matthew 28:19 – [Jesus said,] *"Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

### III. In Jesus, we see that Baptism is a State of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. With His baptism, Jesus was given a special ministry.
  - 1. Isaiah 42:1 – *Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen...*
  - 2. God calls Jesus **Son** to describe who He is and a **servant** to describe the special work into which Jesus had been baptized.
- B. Likewise, as we were made sons and daughters in our baptism, we were also made servants.
  - 1. Romans 12:1 – *I appeal to you therefore, ...by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*
  - 2. Ephesians 5:1-2 – *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*
  - 3. 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.*

### Application

- A. In and through Baptism, not only do we enter into a new state of being, but a new state of living.
- B. God says to us, *"You are my child, whom I love, I am very pleased with you."*

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Going Deeper (January 14/15, 2012)

### OPEN:

1. Briefly recall your *Faith Journey*—that which led to your becoming a child of God, and moments that helped to further and strengthen your relationship with Him.
2. What has been a highlight of your *Faith Journey*?

### DIG:

1. In and through Baptism, God assures us of our salvation and gives us a new life. More than a one-time event, our Baptism has the power to impact our everyday lives.
2. Read **Romans 6:1-14**.
3. Use **verses 1-4** to answer the person who says, "Baptism is merely an outward ceremony reflective of an inner obedience and commitment."
  - a. To what significant event does Baptism unite us?
  - b. To what extent can it be said that Baptism is both a *tomb* and a *womb*?
4. The last phrase of **verse 4** might be more literally translated, *so also we might walk around in newness of life*.
  - a. In what sense do the baptized children of God *walk around in newness of life*?
  - b. Using the imagery of mud puddles, illustrate an individual's life *before* Baptism and *after* Baptism.
  - c. What *assurance* does a child of God have in and through Baptism?
  - d. What is the goal and focus of a baptized, child of God when it comes to the mud puddles of sin?
5. How do **verses 6 & 7** remind us that Baptism is not just an event in our past, but a part of our present and future?
  - a. To what extent is the child of God free from the guilt of sin?
  - b. To what extent is the child of God free from the power of sin?

6. What powerful insight does **verse 11** provide us?
7. Since we are engaged in a struggle against the flesh, so long as we live in this world, what is the daily challenge of a baptized child of God? See **verses 12-13**.
  - a. What must we do?
  - b. What must we avoid?
  - c. What further insight does **Titus 2:11-12** provide?
8. In **verse 13**, the verb for *offer* (NIV), *present* (ESV) is the same used in **Romans 12:1**, where the Lord invites us, in view of His mercy, to offer our bodies as living sacrifices.
  - a. What significance does this provide knowing that the Lord who adopted us into His family through Baptism also anointed us as priests?
  - b. What does *offer yourselves to God* mean to you?
9. In considering **Romans 6:14**, who is our *Master* as a baptized child of God?
  - a. What difference does that make in our life now?
  - b. What difference does that make in our life forever?
  - c. Explain how living *under grace* influences how we live out each and every day?

## REFLECT:

1. In terms of your Baptism, what does it mean to be *born again*?
  - a. In what way(s) is it a State of *Being*?
  - b. In what way(s) is it a State of *Living*?
2. When faced with temptation, doubt and fear, how might your Baptism be of benefit and blessing to you?
3. If you were to start and end each day recalling your Baptism, what benefits and blessings could you expect?