

Hope Trending

[8] The Prostitute—No More Fear of Shame

- Brene Brown: “Shame is the intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love and belonging.” (*Daring Greatly* 78)
- Jeremiah 31:3—“I have loved you with an everlasting love.”
- Luke 7:48-50—“Woman, your sins are forgiven . . . your faith has saved you . . . go in peace.”
- John 3:1-5
 - Born of water
 - Born of the Spirit
- Acts 2:38—“Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins.”
- John 8:11—“Woman, where are your accusers? . . . Then neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin.”
 - Philip Yancey: “This tense scene reveals a clear principle in Jesus’ life: he brings to the surface repressed sin, yet forgives any freely acknowledged sin. The adulteress went away forgiven, with a new lease on life; the Pharisees slunk away, stabbed to the heart.” (*The Jesus I Never Knew* 152)
- Matthew 3:13-17—imagine a video clip of Jesus’ own baptism
- Baptism’s 5 Stunning Blessings
 - Blessing #1—Fraternity
 - John 3:5—membership in the Kingdom
 - Blessing #2—Family
 - 1 John 3:1—the Father’s love lavished on you
 - Blessing #3—Friendship
 - Hebrews 13:5—“I will never leave you or forsake you”

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- Blessing #4—Freedom
 - Romans 6:3-5—bury your past and rise to a new life

- Blessing #5—Favor
 - Matthew 3:17—“This is My beloved child.”

- How can I know if I’m ready to follow Jesus in baptism?
 - Have you repented of your sins?
 - Do you believe in Jesus?
 - Do you want to have a growing friendship with God?
 - Do you desire to be faithful and obedient to God for the rest of your life?
 - Do you want to be a part of God’s mission on this earth?
 - If your answer is Yes to these questions, you are ready to make a commitment to follow Jesus in baptism.

Questions:

___What is the beautiful symbolism of Jesus’ own baptism by being immersed?

___What does it mean to become “a new creation” in Christ? Does it mean you will never sin again?

___Read Matthew 18:19-20 and Mark 16:16—How important is baptism?

___Can you think of a good reason why you shouldn’t follow Jesus and be baptized?