

St Barn Cath Church **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** (Mark 1:7-11) 01/10/21 Yr B
THIS WEEKEND WE CELEBRATE;

“THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD”

AS WE BEGIN OUR TALK ON THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD,,, I’D LIKE TO TELL YOU A SHORT STORY THAT I HEARD FROM BISHOP BOB,,, SOME YEARS AGO.

IN THE 5TH CENTURY AD,,, **ST. PATRICK OF IRELAND** WAS BAPTIZING **KING AENGUS**,,, BY USING A
“FULL EMMERSION” CEREMONY.

AS OUR STORY GOES,,, DURING THE CEREMONY,,, ST. PATRICK LEANED ON HIS SHARP POINTED STAFF AND HE ACCIDENTALLY STABBED THE FOOT OF THE KING. AFTER THE CEREMONY WAS OVER,,, ST. PATRICK GLANCED DOWN AND SAW BLOOD ON THE FLOOR AND ON THE KINGS FOOT AND REALIZING WHAT HE HAD DONE,,, HE IMMEDIATELY BEGGED THE KINGS FORGIVENESS.

ST. PATRICK ASKED THE KING;

“WHY DID YOU SUFFER THIS PAIN IN SILENCE?”

THE KING REPLIED:

“I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS PART OF THE RITUAL!

NOW,,, THERE MAY BE MORE TRUTH IN THAT STATEMENT,,, THAN MEETS THE EYE!

TODAY’S GOSPEL READING,,, IS ALL ABOUT **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**. THIS IS ONE OF THE THREE EVENTS,,, WHERE ALL THREE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS OF (**MATTHEW,,, MARK AND LUKE**) DESCRIBED **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD AS INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**,,, BECAUSE OF IT’S GREAT IMPORTANCE!

JESUS CAME FROM GALILEE,,, TO THE JORDAN RIVER,,, TO BE BAPTIZED BY JOHN. BUT JOHN REMEMBERED WHAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD THE PEOPLE:

“ONE MIGHTIER THAN I,,, IS COMING AFTER ME. I AM NOT WORTHY TO STOOP AND LOOSEN THE THONGS OF HIS SANDALS. I HAVE BAPTIZED YOU WITH WATER; HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

SO,, JOHN TRIED TO STOP JESUS,, SAYING; ***“I NEED TO BE BAPTIZED BY YOU,, AND DO YOU COME TO ME?”***

JESUS REPLIED:

“LET IT BE SO NOW,, IT IS PROPER FOR US TO DO THIS,, TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS!”

AFTER HEARING THAT,, JOHN CONSENTED,, AND I BELIEVE ,, THAT THERE WAS NO ONE BETTER ABLE TO TEACH US ABOUT BAPTISM,, THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST.

BESIDES THE CAMEL SKIN ROBE,, AND A DIET OF LOCUSTS AND HONEY,, ***THE ONE THING THAT SETS JOHN APART,, WAS HIS BAPTIZING!***

THE OPENING VERSES,, IN MARK’S GOSPEL,, MADE THAT PERFECTLY CLEAR,, WHEN MARK SAID:

“JOHN CAME BAPTIZING IN THE DESERT,, PREACHING A BAPTISM OF REPENTENCE,, FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.”

AND HIS MESSAGE FOUND A HUGE AUDIENCE!

IMMEDIETLY AFTER JESUS CAME OUT OF THE WATER,, HE SAW THE HEAVENS BEING TORN OPEN,, AND THE SPIRIT,, LIKE A DOVE,, DESCENDED UPON HIM,, AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN SAID:

***YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON;
WITH YOU,, I AM WELL PLEASED!”***

JOHN THE BAPTIST HAD BEEN SUMMONING PEOPLE EVERYWHERE,, TO REPENT,, AND JESUS,, AMONGST OTHERS,, RESPONDED BY BEING BAPTIZED.

***BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,
HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED,,
WHY DID JESUS NEED TO BE BAPTIZED?***

DOES JESUS,, THE INCARNATE ***SON OF GOD***,, NEED TO REPENT?

LET ME SAY CLEARLY,, ***NO***,, JESUS DIDN’T NEED TO REPENT AND IN ST. MATTHEW’S ACCOUNT,, WE’RE GIVEN A CLUE,, AS TO WHY JESUS CAME TO JOHN,, AND ASKED TO BE BAPTIZED!

IF YOU REMEMBER,,, IN MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT,,, WE READ THAT JOHN THE BAPTIST,,, AT FIRST,,, REFUSED TO BAPTIZE JESUS,,, BECAUSE JOHN FELT UNWORTHY. HOWEVER,,, JESUS SAID:

LET IT BE SO NOW,,, IT IS PROPER FOR US TO DO THIS,,, TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS!"

SO WHAT DID JESUS MEAN BY THIS? HE MEANT,,, THAT BY SUBMITTING TO BAPTISM,,,

JESUS ACKNOWLEDGED GOD'S CLAIM ON HIM,,, TO BRING RIGHTEOUSNESS INTO THE WORLD,,, AND,,, INTO THE HEARTS OF HUMANITY!

THERE ARE (3) REASONS WHY JESUS WAS BAPTIZED;

- 1) THE BAPTISM OF JESUS ***WAS A SIGN OF HIS COMPLETE DEDICATION TO FOLLOWING THE WILL OF HIS FATHER.***

FOR EVERYONE ELSE,,, WHO CAME TO JOHN FOR BAPTISM,,, THERE WAS A REQUIREMENT,,, FOR THEM TO MAKE A CHANGE,,, TO ANSWER THE CALL,,, FOR THEM TO REPENT OF THEIR SINFUL WAYS,,, AND TO TURN TO GOD'S WAY OF LIFE.

FOR JESUS,,, ***IT WAS A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF HIS LOVE FOR GOD THE FATHER AND HIS AFFIRMATION,,, THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW THE WILL OF GOD EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD MEAN HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS,,,*** WHICH WAS PLANNED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD!

- 2) JESUS' BAPTISM ANNOUNCED THE BEGINNING OF HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY. BOTH JOHN THE BAPTIST,,, AND GOD THE FATHER,,, CONFIRMED JESUS' UNIQUE CALLING,,, PUBLICLY!

- 3) JESUS' BAPTISM,,, ***WAS AN EXAMPLE TO ALL OF US.*** JESUS TAUGHT HIS FOLLOWERS TO BE BAPTIZED.

AND HIS LAST COMMISSION,,, TO HIS DISCIPLES,,, WAS TO GO OUT,,, INTO ALL THE WORLD,,, MAKING DISCIPLES,,, AND BAPTIZING THEM;

***IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,,
AND OF THE SON,,
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!***

LOOKING AT THE BAPTISM OF JESUS,, BY JOHN THE BAPTIST,, IN THE JORDAN RIVER,, WE FIND THAT JESUS DIDN'T NEED A REBIRTH,, SINCE HE WAS THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD.

HE GAD NO ORIGINAL SIN,, TO BE CLEANSED OF!

BUT WHAT JESUS DID NEED,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,, WAS; “*AN INITIATION*”. BEING BORN IN HUMAN FLESH,, JESUS WAS PUBLICLY ASSOCIATING *AND* IDENTIFYING WITH US,, SO THE HE MIGHT REVEAL THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND IT'S RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HE CAME TO PROVIDE FOR US.

BAPTISM,, IS A VERY POWERFUL FORCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN! JESUS NOT ONLY MARKED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM,, BY BEING BAPTIZED HIMSELF,, BUT HE COMMANDED THAT IT BE DONE FOR ALL PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.

IT'S NOT AN EVENT OF THE PAST,, IT'S A PRESENT FACT,, AND IT'S SOMETHING THAT TODAY,, WE ALL SHARE IN AND HAVE IN COMMON. CHRISTIAN'S ALL OVER THE WORLD,, CAN SAY,, *THAT THEY HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED,, INTO JESUS CHRIST!*

THROUGH BAPTISM,, GOD TAKES THE INITIATIVE. HE OFFERS US A FANTASTIC INVITATION,, TO KNOW US INTIMATELY AND SO CLOSELY,, THAT THROUGH OUR BAPTISM,, OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS COMPLETELY CHANGED. WE'RE *CLEANED UP* AND GIVEN A NEW START,, TO THE EXTENT,,

***THAT WE ACTUALLY BECOME A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY,, AND WE ARE ABLE TO BE CALLED: SONS AND DAUGHTERS* IN A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST JESUS,, WHO COVERS US,, WITH HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**THE WATERS OF BAPTISM ARE SO VERY POWERFUL,,
THAT:**

**WITH JUST A FEW HANDFULS OF WATER,, FROM
JOHN THE BAPTIST,, ALL HEAVEN OPENED,,**

***AND GOD REVEALED JESUS TO BE HIS SON,,
THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!***

***AND WITH SIMILAR HANDFULS OF WATER,, THE
HEAVENS OPEN UP,, AT OUR BAPTISM,, AS GOD
TRANSFORMS US:***

FROM FORGIVEN SINNERS TO,, HIS CHILDREN!

**SINCE THAT IS WHAT WE ARE,, CHILDREN OF GOD,,
WE MUST TURN AWAY FROM OUR PETTY
ARGUMENTS,, OUR PRIDE,, OUR STUBBORNNESS AND
LIVE AS CHILDREN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,, THROUGH
DAILY REPENTENCE,, RECEIVING THE FORGIVENESS,,
GRACE,, AND PRESENCE,, OF JESUS,, AND HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS,, INTO OUR HEARTS,, BY FAITH!**

**SO TODAY,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,, I NEED TO ASK
YOU,, *WHAT ARE YOU,, AS CHRISTIANS,, DOING TO
PROMOTE GOD'S KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS?***

**ARE YOU READY TO DEDICATE YOURSELVES,,
COMPLETELY,, TO THE SERVICE OF GOD'S
KINGDOM,, AND FOLLOW JESUS?**

**IF SO,, LET US RENEW OUR BAPTISMAL
COMMITMENT,, BY **BEARING WITNESS TO THE GOOD
NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD,, BOTH IN WORD
AND DEED**,, AND BY LIVING OUR LIVES,, AS:**

CHILDREN OF GOD!

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,, AND OF THE SON,, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

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1192 Wds, 5 Pgs