

BAPTISM

BELIEF

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

-Mark 16:16-

THE INTERSECTION OF BAPTISM AND BELIEF

One crying in the wilderness...

As prophesied by Isaiah, John the Baptist came “*preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*” (Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3)

He told the people to repent and be baptized and be prepared to receive the Messiah

John’s preaching drew a great response among the **common people**, including the tax- collectors...

- “*they were being baptized by him... confessing their sins.*” (Mark 1:5)

Although some came to John to be baptized (Mt. 3:7), the majority of the **leaders** (Pharisees, Sadducees, lawyers, scribes, priests and elders) rejected John’s preaching

Behold, I send my messenger

(Luke 7:24-30)

The audience is split into two distinct groups separated by their response to John's preaching

“When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God's justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John” (Luke 7:29)

- Their acknowledgement was “*having been baptized with the baptism of John*”

“But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John” (Luke 7:30)

- Their refusal of baptism was their rejection of God's purpose

Baptism was the test of acceptance or rejection of God's plan

I will ask you one thing

(Matthew 21:23-27)

Jesus used “*the baptism of John*” for the totality of John’s preaching

- Baptism was so central to his teaching the Lord used it to represent all of John’s message to repent and be baptized and be prepared to receive the Messiah

“*And they began reasoning among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?'"*

- Jesus had asked about the “*baptism of John*”
- They knew to characterize their rejection of John as “*why did you not believe*”
- They knew a question about their response to John’s baptism was equivalent to a question regarding their belief of John’s message

Even dishonest hearers understood: not being baptized = not believing

Parable of Two Sons

(Matthew 21:28-31)

The father gave both sons the same command

The first son was initially rebellious

- But, later repented and obeyed the father's command

The second son made a pretense of regard for the father's will

- But, ultimately did not perform the act of obedience

Which of the two did the will of his father?

- The first son
- The one who actually obeyed the father's command

Hear the Parable of Two Sons

(Matthew 21:28-31)

The father gave both sons the same command

Jesus' point is to contrast the different responses

The common people made no pretense of special devotion to God

- But, when John came preaching, they believed and were baptized of him

The leaders professed to be zealous for God

- But refused to believe and be baptized by John

Which of the two did the will of the Father?

- *The tax collectors “will get into the kingdom of God before you.”*

The way of righteousness

(Matthew 21:32)

Jesus again splits John's hearers into two groups by their responses:

- “you” (chief priests and elders - 21:23)
- “*tax collectors...*” (common people)

“you did not believe him”

- The leaders “*not having been baptized by John*” (Luke 7:30)

“tax collectors... did believe him”

- The common people “*having been baptized with the baptism of John*” (Luke 7:29)

Jesus is describing the same thing!

- Refusal or neglect of baptism is the same as unbelief
- The obedient act of baptism validates faith

Baptism and Belief

By contrasting the responses of the common people and their leaders to John's preaching, Jesus established the relationship between baptism and belief...

- Baptism acknowledges God's justice,
but refusing baptism rejects God's purpose
- Baptism is synonymous with belief,
and refusing baptism is synonymous with unbelief

In Mark 16:16, Jesus said what He meant and meant what He said:

- *“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,
but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*

Men have built a wall between Baptism and Belief. Jesus did not.

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