

REMEMBERING MY BAPTISM

Lent: Journey to the Cross #1

March 6, 2022

*When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.
And as he was praying, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit
descended on him in bodily form like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son,
whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
Luke 3:21-22*

The Lenten journey begins

²¹ *When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

²³ *Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil

¹⁴ *Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.*

¹⁶ *He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor."
Luke 3-4 (and see the Bible.org poster for more on the "journey" theme)*

1. John introduces Jesus, but Father and Spirit confirm!
2. Jesus identifies with all the baptized (no more arguing about the where, when or how!)
3. Luke's genealogy emphasizes the idea of "Sonship" (see Galatians 3:26)
4. The Spirit is in the lead every step of this journey
5. We have forty days to prepare the next great step in God's redemption plan and Jesus' ministry

Baptism: begin with identification

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.”

1 Corinthians 10

²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6

1. In a world of identity politics, baptism reminds us that our primary identification is with Jesus
2. Baptism: we have died with Jesus to our old selves and are raised with him to new life

Baptism: always just a step before the wilderness

²² Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. ²⁴ And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” ²⁵ And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, ²⁶ saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.”

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.

Exodus 15

1. Like the Israelites, Jesus responds to God’s testing by listening to the voice of God
2. Like the Israelites, Jesus leads the way from baptism to wilderness – where we are always safest

Our journey through Lent

1. The end of the journey is resurrection – for Jesus and for us!

⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6

2. Remembering

Q 69. How does holy baptism remind and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross benefits you personally?

A. In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing and with it promised that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly his blood and his Spirit wash away my soul's impurity, that is, all my sins.

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 26

Let us recall the teaching of Scripture concerning the sacrament of baptism. The water of baptism signifies the washing away of our sin by the blood of Christ and the renewal of our lives by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3: 5). It also signifies that we are buried with Christ (Rom. 6: 4). From this we learn that our sin has been condemned by God, that we are to hate it and consider ourselves as having died to it. Moreover, the water of baptism signifies that we are raised with Christ (Col. 2: 12). From this we learn that we are to walk with Christ in newness of life. All this tells us that God has adopted us as his children: "Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8: 17). Thus in baptism God seals the promises he gave when he made his covenant with us, calling us and our children to put our trust for life and death in Christ our Savior, deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him in obedience and love. God graciously includes our children in his covenant, and all his promises are for them as well as us (Gen. 17: 7; Acts 2: 39). Jesus himself embraced little children, and blessed them (Mark 10: 16); and the apostle Paul said that children of believers are holy (1 Cor. 7: 14). So, just as children of the old covenant received the sign of circumcision, our children are given the sign of baptism. We are therefore always to teach our little ones that they have been set apart by baptism as God's own children.

Introduction to the sacrament, 1981 version

3. What one gives up for Lent is only to make space to listen to the Spirit (and his sword!)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil

Luke 4

Resources for our Lenten journey 2022

Bible.org has some wonderful resources at <https://bible.org/book/Luke>

I. Howard Marshall's Greek commentary is my go to help (Eerdmans, 1978)

Bob Deffinbaugh's sermon on this text focuses on the "Sonship" theme at <https://bible.org/seriespage/baptism-and-genealogy-jesus-luke-321-28-1-samuel-161-13-2-samuel-78-13>

I appreciate J.C. Ryle's commentary on Luke at <https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/113.htm>

Spurgeon's notes on this text focus on the prayer side at <https://ccel.org/ccel/spurgeon/sermons56/sermons56.i.html>

The CRC has an extensive collection of liturgy for baptism at <https://www.crcna.org/resources/church-resources/liturgical-forms/baptism-children>

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

CONSISTS MOSTLY OF JESUS PARABLES & TEACHING BY THE ROAD. LUKE PORTRAYS FOLLOWING JESUS AS A DISCOVERY YOU LEARN AS YOU GO!

1-2 INTRODUCTION

- 1-1 PREFACE:** HOW & WHY LUKE WROTE HIS orderly account about the things that have been fulfilled among us.
- HOW & WHY:** CONSULTS EYE-WITNESSES & TRADITIONS.
- WHY:** TO SHOW HOW THE STORY OF JESUS FILLS THE STORY OF GOD & ISRAEL... & THE WHOLE WORLD.

9b-19a JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

- 9b-10a:** PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON. A PRODIGAL SON RUNS AWAY... BUT COMES BACK REPENTANT.
- 10b-12:** JESUS' CONTINUED MISSION TO THE POOR. YOU'VE NEGLECTED THE JUSTICE & THE LOVE OF GOD.
- 13-17:** JESUS' BANQUETS WITH ISRAEL'S LEADERS. I AM THE MESSIAH AND I'M GOING TO DIE IN JERUSALEM.
- 18-19a:** JESUS' KINGDOM BANQUETS WITH THE POOR. I'VE COME TO SEE & SERVE THE LOWLY.

19b-24 JESUS' FINAL WEEK IN JERUSALEM

- 19b-20:** ARRIVAL & REJECTION IN JERUSALEM.
- 20-21:** JESUS PREDICTS THE TEMPLE'S DESTRUCTION.
- 22:** JESUS' LAST PASSOVER. HE SAID HE'D BE SURROUNDED BY ARMY'S!
- 23-24:** THE CRUCIFIXION & BURIAL.

THE POINT: ONLY WHEN WE SURRENDER OURSELVES TO JESUS' UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM, EMBODIED BY THE CROSS, CAN WE TRULY EXPERIENCE THE REAL JESUS.

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