



Sermon Discussion Guide

January 5, 2025 | Mt 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-38 | Jerrod

SUMMARY

On this Sunday, Jan 5, as part of our Gathering's "see the Bible" moments, we had the joy of participating in several baptisms! Jerrod's teaching on the front end was geared toward 1) giving a summary instruction on the who, what, why, when, and where of baptism, as well as 2) calling people, if they believe in Jesus, to follow Him in baptism. As a "see the Bible" moment, Baptism serves the gathered church by providing a visual means by which the gospel is rehearsed and proclaimed. For the church, this is God's gracious provision for us to feast on this gospel fuel, in several ways: 1) by rejoicing in the Lord's saving work in the lives of those being baptized, 2) recalling our own testimony, our own baptism, and how the Lord worked in our own lives to bring us to repentance and faith, and 3) being propelled with joy to continue to participate in God's mission to seek and save the lost.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Hearing the testimonies of those who were baptized on Sunday, what thoughts and feelings were prompted in you?
 - a. Were any of you prompted to recall your own baptism? How?
 - b. Thoughts and feelings are important and good ("head" and "heart"). But, what about "hands?" Through these baptisms, what, if anything, is the Lord prompting you to do?

READ Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 2:37-38

2. Work together as a group to articulate short, but accurate, answers to the following questions. Use these or other Scripture passages to ground your answers.
 - a. What is baptism?
 - b. Who should be baptized? Who should not?
 - c. How does baptism function in the life of the church?
 - d. What role does the church play in baptism?
 - i. What role do church leaders play in baptism?
 - e. Is baptism only a New Testament thing?
 - f. How would you respond to someone who said, "I believe in Jesus, but I do not want to/need to be baptized, because the Lord knows my heart. Besides, the thief on the cross wasn't baptized, and Jesus said he would be with him in paradise, so I'm good."

For Reference: Bobby Jamieson's Quote / Definition of Baptism:

Baptism is a church's act of affirming and portraying a believer's union with Christ by immersing him or her in water, and a believer's act of publicly committing him or herself to Christ and his people, thereby uniting a believer to the church and marking off him or her from the world. (This is taken from a very helpful & concise booklet, [Understanding Baptism](#). You can ask me, Brad, for a copy and I'll be happy to get you one.)