

**Going Public - Acts 10:44-48**  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

The importance of baptism is one of the subtle themes in the story of Acts. The way Luke demonstrates the emphasis of baptism is by connecting it so closely with the stories of conversion in the narrative. In virtually every instance we see individuals or groups of people coming to faith for the first time we are also told that these people were quickly baptized. This begins on the Day of Pentecost where 3,000 people believed and were baptized. From there we are told the stories of the Samaritans who believe and are baptized as well as the Ethiopian in Acts 8, Saul in Acts 9, and multiple who are saved and baptized in the cities of Philippi and Corinth in Acts 16-18. The story is simple, when people believe they are taken to water where they make the new life-changing faith in Jesus public through baptism. But why do they do this?

The simple version is that Jesus was both baptized as our example and commanded baptism for His church. Jesus commanded His people to baptize those who trusted in Jesus as a way of initiating their discipleship. And those who come to the faith were called to be baptized as a picture of the Gospel and a public declaration of their faith in Jesus (See Acts 2:38).

But baptism did not begin with Jesus. It was actually a religious ceremony used in Judaism. There were multiple types of ceremonial washings, but full baptism became part of the initiation for Gentiles desiring to embrace Judaism. The men were first circumcised, and then there were sacrifices made, followed by a ceremonial baptism. In the baptizing the person would reject an old way of living and embrace the teachings of Judaism and the One True God revealed in the Old Testament. But it was John the Baptist who really changed things. John was Jesus' relative, and his ministry was to be the one who prepared the way for the Messiah. His preaching called Jewish people to repent and be baptized as a way of preparing themselves to embrace the coming of the promised Messiah. He was the first one to call Jews to the water for baptism, which became scandalous for the religious leadership. Jesus then, came to John and was baptized, which was the moment His identity as our Messianic King was made public. Don't miss this. Until His baptism Jesus had been living a relatively obscure life as a Jewish man. But at His baptism Jesus is identified as the hope for our salvation, first by John the Baptist, and then by God the Father. Jesus did not need to repent, of course, He was sinless. But it was here that baptism became the covenantal sign for the Christian faith, replacing circumcision as the sign for the New Covenant. Then, at the end of His ministry, after His resurrection Jesus commissioned His disciples to go all over the world and make disciples, and they are to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Acts continues this emphasis by showing the importance of baptism for any new follower of Jesus as their entrance into Christ and His family of faith that is the church.

Of course, throughout the ages, this simple idea has been interpreted in so many ways. There are those who baptize the babies of believing families, and others who baptize only those who can believe on their own. Furthermore, there are those who only baptize those professing faith, yet believe that baptism is the actual path for their salvation. Why so many different approaches? Well, a short family worship sheet does not give the space for a full discussion, but the question that lies beneath all of the practices of baptism is the place of baptism in our salvation and redemption. Many have come to believe (mistakenly we believe) that baptism is a requirement and prerequisite to

salvation. Some who baptize infants do so because they believe that it is the initial act of conferring salvation on the child at birth. And there are others who baptize adults, yet they tell them that it is their baptism that is saving them. Yet, when we read Scripture what we find is that those who are baptized have already believed, and in some cases the text shows us that they have already received the gift of the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, the thief on the cross was promised by Jesus to be with Him in paradise, yet there was no way for him to be baptized. What we do find in Acts is that baptism is by immersion in water, done as a picture of the Gospel (death, burial, resurrection) for those who have already believed. It is a sign and a seal of their redemption, the first act of obedience taken by those who have trusted in Jesus. Baptism does not save us, but it is vital for those who have been redeemed. And it is our encouragement that anyone who has trusted in Jesus and has not yet been baptized as their own public profession of faith should do so.

**Bible Reading for the Week**

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Kings 12	2 Kings 13	2 Kings 14	2 Kings 15	2 Kings 16	2 Kings 17	2 Kings 18

Reading from this past week: Acts 10:44-48

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Acts 14:1-18

**Family Worship**

Song - *The Lord My God My Salvation*

<https://youtu.be/RgikQg40ZEw>

Gospel Project

Unit: King Solomon

Story: God gave Solomon wisdom

Big Picture Question: What is mercy?

Answer: Mercy is when God does not give us the punishment that we deserve.

Scripture: 1 Kings 2-3

New City Catechism

Question #32: What do justification and sanctification mean?

Answer: Justification means our declared righteousness before God. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness.

Verse: 1 Peter 1:1-2

Scripture

Acts 10:44-48

- What is baptism and why is it important in the story of Acts? In our own Christian journey?
- What picture is being painted in the act of baptism?
- Have you been baptized? If so, share the story with your family.

Prayer

\*Pray for our college students preparing to return to their campuses and studies.

\*Pray for the Ashton Woods neighborhood

\*Pray that we would see more and more people baptized, and pray for those being baptized next Sunday.