

Treasures of the Sanctuary—Lesson 5—“Washing in the Laver”

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/TALK:

1. Have you ever wished you could start over fresh and erase your past mistakes?
2. Why is the commitment of marriage so important?

READING AND STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What did God tell Moses to put between the Altar of Sacrifice and the Holy Place of the Sanctuary? (Exodus 30:18)
 - a. What was in the Laver? And, what was its purpose?
2. What did this washing symbolize for the time of Christ? (Acts 22:16)
3. Did Jesus say people should be baptized by ministers of the Gospel, after they accepted Him as Savior? (Matthew 28:18-20) *Would this be God’s method to the “end of the world”?* _____
4. What is the natural response for people receiving Jesus Christ as Savior? (Acts 2:37, 38)
 - a. Jesus said we should be born of “water and the Spirit” (John 3:5)
5. What is the saving element in this matter? (Mark 16:16) “We are saved by grace through _____” (Ephesians 2:8)
 - a. Baptism must be an act of _____. (*faith leads to action and full acceptance of Christ*)
6. Were the people confessing and repenting of the obvious sin in their lives as they came to be baptized? (Matthew 3:1,2,5,6,8)
7. Being baptized, with genuine repentance, is God’s will for our lives and brings us closer into His Presence (like with the Sanctuary). Did Jesus give us a perfect example of this? (Matthew 3:13-17)
 - a. Did this bring Him into a closer connection with Heaven?
8. Jesus went down into the water at Baptism, and then came back up out of it. What does Baptism symbolize? (Colossians 2:12; *Romans 6:3,4*)
 - a. Why did John baptize in the Jordan River at Aenon? (John 3:23)

- b. *Note: some people have tried many different kinds of baptism today (like sprinkling, rose pedals, oil, snow, pouring of water, etc.)*
- c. How many kinds of baptism are acceptable according to the Bible? (Ephesians 4:4,5)
- d. All the Apostles baptized this way too. (ref. Acts 8:35-38)
- e. The Greek word *Baptizo* means, “to dunk” or “to plunge” under the water. (Full immersion) This was practiced by even the Catholic church well into the 13th Century.
- f. Some say baptism by the Holy Spirit is all we need. Is this true? No. (ref. Acts 10:44-48)

9. What should come before Baptism?

- a. A person must believe in Jesus and his power to save “with all their heart” (*Mark 16:16; Acts 8:37*) (*we experience God’s new desires in our heart*)
- b. We must Repent of our sin; confessing and forsaking it all (*Matthew 3:2,6,8; Acts 2:38*)
- c. Learn and follow the basic truths of God’s word (*Matthew 28:19; Acts 19:2-5*)
- d. This being the case, should a *Re-baptism* ever be considered? (*Acts 19:2-5*) (*if first commitment was not understood. Also, if your relation with God was broken for many years and you wanted to come back and reaffirm your commitment to Him*)

10. Considering what is needed before baptism, should infants ever be baptized? (*we don’t find baby baptism to be appropriate Scripturally, but baby dedication is fully acceptable*)

11. According to the Bible, is Baptism connected with joining a Biblically sound church? (*Acts 2:41,47; 1 Corinthians 12:13—“By one Spirit we are all baptized into one body”*)

- a. Would it be strange for someone to say, “I’ll marry you, but do we have to live together?” All Christians must have fellowship with like-minded believers to grow and be nurtured—*Hebrews 10:25*)

12. Once we believe the truth and choose to follow it wholeheartedly, should we ever put off our Baptism? What did Ananias tell Paul? (*Acts 22:16*) (*we should never hesitate or put off following God*)

HEART QUESTION(S):

1. Would you like to experience the new life in Jesus? _____
2. Have you thought about being baptized and following the example of Jesus? _____ Would you like to be baptized by immersion? _____

NOTES:

Q and A: The thief on the cross next to Jesus was saved by Jesus but he was never baptized. How can this be? (Luke 23:43). The thief could not possibly be baptized. He was saved by God’s mercy and by faith in Jesus. It’s one matter if a person cannot possibly be baptized, but it’s another matter entirely if someone rejects or refuses to be baptized (Luke 7:30). It would be wrong to not commit your life to Jesus Christ in Baptism.