

## Lighthouse Bible Church

August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

John 1: 25 – 34 ‘He who Baptizes with the Holy Spirit’

### Read - Stand – Pray

Last week we looked at Verses 19 – 23 and the testimony of John the Baptist as to who he was and what his ministry and calling were.

Remember the Pharisees and Sadducees sent priests and Levites to him asking him who he was. We saw that the Pharisees and Sadducees were very antagonistic against Jesus and His followers.

They didn't want some man preaching a message about repentance and forgiveness when they were offering the people a works system of religion that could earn them their way into heaven. *Not so much different than today.*

But they didn't know for sure who he was so they sent priests and Levites to ask him and so they asked him if he was the Christ and he said no. Are you Elijah and he said no? Are you the Prophet and he said no?

John the Baptist showed true humility in always taking the attention off of himself and putting on whom it belongs, and that is Jesus Himself, the Light, the Word become flesh, the Messiah. Because John recognized that he had a calling from God, he had a message from God and he had a ministry from God that deserved no special recognition. He was just there to do what he was called to do.

So they said ‘well, who are you that we can tell those who sent us’ and he says I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness as Isaiah the prophet had foretold. So then there next question is ‘why then are you baptizing if you are not any of those guys’ and that is where we are going to pick it up this morning in Verses 24 – 25.

Then in **Verses 24 – 25** now those who were sent from the Pharisees asked him saying ‘why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?’

3 times in our passage here John the Baptist mentions that he came baptizing with water. The word baptism, *baptizo*, means to immerse in water or to cleanse with water. John’s baptism was symbolic of being cleansed outward and inwardly in preparation for the coming Messiah.

Baptism and ritual cleansing was a part of the Jewish custom and part of the anticipation of the coming Messiah. Water was used in **Leviticus 15: 13** and other places symbolically for the cleansing of the defiled flesh and clothing. **Numbers 19: 17 – 18** talks about symbolically purifying a person with water.

Water baptism was used by the Jews to accept proselyte Gentiles into Judaism as a symbolic act of cleansing. John’s baptism was offered to the Jews as a symbolism to prepare them for God’s coming kingdom. The problem was, they already thought they were in God’s kingdom because they were Jewish, God’s chosen people.

So for a Jew to be baptized would be in essence saying they are as much outside of the kingdom of God as the Gentile is outside of Judaism and it would also show their act of repentance and contrition that was needed to prepare them for the Messiah.

In **Ezekiel 36: 25 – 27** God says to His disobedient people **I will sprinkle clean water on you and you shall be clean, I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.** Then He says how He will do that, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...** So John answers in 26

**Verse 26 I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know.** Again, he is talking about Jesus and like he said earlier in John 1: 10 -11 **that He came to His own and they did not know Him.**

John says in **Verse 33 when He comes He will baptize** not with water but what **the Holy Spirit.** John's baptism was symbolic of what Jesus' baptism would be literally. When someone receives Jesus as the Lord and Savior, when they become a born again believer they receive the Holy Spirit. They are in essence baptized in the Holy Spirit, they are cleansed from sin not by water but by the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all sin as **Revelation 1: 5** says.

Listen, it is a one time thing that is never repeated again or received at differing times after you are saved. You receive the Spirit of God the moment you are born again. That is why John will say later in **John 3: 5 – 8** when it comes to being born again that it is only possible by the Spirit of God.

Paul told the church at Corinth in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12: 13 for by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ...** It is not being born again and then getting another dose or filling of the Spirit that then gives you some supernatural ability to speak in a different tongue or perform some kind of supposed miracle or give you some kind of ability to prophesy something.

It is a one time filling of the Holy Spirit that becomes our guarantee of eternal life as a born again believer.

Look with me at **Acts 10: 44 – 48** *Explain: salvation and receiving the H.S. THEN baptism.* Then John says in v27

**Verse 27: It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.** Like we have seen before, Jesus was preferred or of greater importance than John because He was before Him.

And John says so much so that **His sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.** That was the lowest of the low things to do. The lowest of slaves were required to remove the shoes from their master's feet and John says I consider myself the least of the least when it comes to my relationship with Christ. That's incredible humility.

Then John tells us in **Verse 28** that **these things were done in Bethabara** or in Bethany **beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.** By the way, another side note, John was baptizing in the Jordan river, **Matthew 3: 13** and other places say.

Later in **John 3: 23** he will say that **John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim because there was MUCH WATER there.** These and other verses suggest that you needed a large enough body of water or a river deep enough to baptize by what, by immersion.

The word baptize is the Greek word *baptizo* which means to dunk or immerse into. That is why we hold to a baptism by immersion and not by sprinkling, scripture makes it very clear that that is the method of baptism.

Just one illustration of that is in **Acts 8: 38** when the Ethiopian eunuch was lead to the Lord by Phillip it says that **he commanded the chariot to stand still and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and he baptized him.**

**Verse 29: the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said ‘behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

The day after his exchange with the priests and Levites, John tells the people in his hearing **behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world’.**

John likens Jesus as a Lamb of God and the Jews certainly would have understood that, wouldn't they. From the promised lamb of **Genesis 22: 7** that would be the burnt offering, to the promised Passover lamb of **Exodus 12: 6** that would be killed and it's blood sprinkled over the door posts, to the promised suffering lamb of **Isaiah 53: 7** that would be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities.

They knew all about the animal sacrificial system where their needed to be the shedding of blood from the animal sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. They knew that sin and separation from God could only be removed by the blood sacrifice. And now John says this is the lamb of God that will be sacrificed for the sin of the world, for everyone, because everyone is born sinful and separated from God.

The Jews were looking for a Messiah that would be a king, a ruler, someone to overthrow the Romans and bring in prosperity. Instead they get a lamb. And, although Jesus, the lamb of God, died for the sin of the world and His sacrifice is sufficient for all people, it is only applied to those who will believe and receive Him.

Some people take verses like this and say that God will save all people, its called universalism. But as we know all too well that the scriptures make it very clear that most people will not know Him or believe Him or receive Him and thus will not be saved but punished in eternal torment as we have seen over and over again.

Then he says in **Verse 30** **this is He of whom I said ‘after me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before Me.**

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that John writes this. He said it back in Verse 15, He said it back in Verse 27 and now he says it again here. He wants everyone to be absolutely sure that Christ, the coming Messiah, is the pre-existent living Word of God become flesh and dwelling among them. Then in Verse 31 John says

**Verse 31: I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.**

John says **I did not know Him.** He was his cousin and he was around him for almost 30 years. What John is saying is that I did not know that He was the Messiah until He was revealed to me. I was just told to start baptizing the people with water and the Messiah would be revealed.

Then John says in **Verses 32 – 33** **I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me ‘upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining on Him this is ... the Son of God.**

By the way, who sent John to baptize and testify of Jesus? **John 1: 6** says **there was a man sent from whom God.** John says that God told him that while you are baptizing, you will see the Holy Spirit descend on Him like a dove and alighting on Him. He said I saw that and then I knew that my cousin, Jesus, was the one, was the Messiah, who came after me but was preferred before me who was with God in the beginning.

He says in **Verse 34** that **I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God**

Do you want to know something, God revealed to John who Christ was, the Son of God. Do you want to know how you can know who Christ is? It is only through God and His Spirit that you can know the truth of who Christ is.

You can search all the religions, you can look at all the philosophies regarding Christ but without God revealing Him to you, you can not know Him. Remember in **Matthew 16: 13 – 17** where Jesus asked His disciples ‘who do men say that I am’ and they said some J. the B. others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets. But who do you say that I am and Peter says **you are the Christ the Son of the living God**. Jesus says **flesh and blood has not revealed that to you but My Father in heaven**.

Listen, if you are here this morning and don’t know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you can not know Him apart from God revealing Him to you. **John 6: 44 65** says that **no one can know or come to Jesus without the Father granting it**.

You have come to the right place to find Jesus because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Close with gospel here.

**Lighthouse Bible Church**

**August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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**‘He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit’**

Introduction and Review:

Verse 25 Why then do you baptize

Leviticus 15: 13, Numbers 19: 17 – 18

Ezekiel 36: 25 – 27

Verses 26, 33 He baptizes with the Holy Spirit

Revelation 1: 5, John 3: 5 – 8

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12: 13, Acts 10: 44 – 48

Verses 27 – 28 He is preferred before me

Matthew 3: 13, John 3: 23, Acts 8: 38

Verse 29 Behold the Lamb of God

Genesis 22: 7, Exodus 12: 6, Isaiah 53: 7

Verses 30 – 34 This is the Son of God

John 1: 6, Matthew 16: 13 – 17

John 6: 44, 65

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