

What's baptism all about?

Sunday 8th January 2017

Matthew 3 & 4

1. Baptism is an outward sign of an inner change

"I baptise with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God." Matthew 3:11

John the Baptist's message: *"Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." Matthew 3:2*

Jesus message: *"Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." Matthew 4:17*

¹³ Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be **baptized by John**. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptised by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptise him.' Matt 3:13-15

2. Baptism will not exempt you from difficulties

*"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted** there by the devil." Matt 4:1*

Need to use spiritual weapons:

- Word of God

*"But Jesus told him, "No! The **Scriptures say...**" Matt 4:4*

*"Jesus responded, "The **Scriptures also say**, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" Matt 4:7*

*"Jesus told him. "For the **Scriptures say**, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'" Matt 4:10*

- Prayer

"And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one." Matt 6:13

- Accountability

*"Confess your sins to **each other** and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16*

- Support

*"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but **encourage one another**, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." Hebrews 10:25*

3. Baptism gives me the privilege of signposting others to Jesus

*"But **someone is coming soon who is greater than I am**—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals." Matt 3:11*

4. As I witness this baptism, Jesus calls me too

*"Jesus called out to them, '**Come, follow me**, and I will show you how to fish for people!' ²⁰ And they left their nets at once and followed him." Matt 4:19-20*

*"A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers... And **he called them to come, too**. ²² They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind." Matt 4:21-22*

*"After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who **brings me great joy**." Matt 3:16-17*