

Going the Extra Mile

Script - Mt. 5:38-42

- A. Baptism - a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12).
 - 1. It is a Christian rite of cleansing. It is a symbol of submission. A symbol of renewal. A washing away of sin. The new birth. (Jn. 3:3). Although baptism is a symbol of cleansing the ritual itself has been perverted to be sprinkling, pouring, etc. One Lord, One faith, one baptism (Eph. 4:5).
 - 2. Prerequisites for baptism
 - a. Repentance of sins (Acts 2:37-38).
 - b. Acceptance of Jesus as your personal Savior.
 - c. Learning the basic teachings of Christ (Mt. 28:19-20).
 - d. Choosing to be baptized is a result of someone responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - e. Understanding that true Biblical baptism is by immersion only and is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Eph. 4:5)
 - 3. Called the new birth and Jesus said you can't see the kingdom of God unless your baptized (Jn. 3:3).

- B. Jesus was baptized (Mt. 3:13-17; Mk. 1:9-11; Lk. 3:21-22; Jn. 1:29-34). All the gospels record this event.
 - 1. Jesus was sinless (1 Pet. 2:22; Jn. 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Jn. 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).
 - 2. Why Jesus was baptized
 - a. As an example for all of us.
 - b. For those that may not had the opportunity to be baptized in their lifetime (i.e. the thief on the cross (Lk. 23).
 - c. He loves us so much (Jn. 3:16) He doesn't want anyone to be lost (2 Pet. 3:9).
 - d. Jesus was following his own counsel (Mt. 5:38-42) and going the extra mile. Doing what was not required for him to do because He loves us so much. Notice the passages that speak to His motives (Heb. 2:9; 1 Jn. 2:2; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Cor. 5:21; Isa. 53:5-12).
 - e. Paul also mentions this selfless concept for us as we deal with others (Rom. 15:1-4).

- C. What Jesus went through so we could be saved.
 - 1. He was not recognized by his brothers and sisters, as the Messiah.
 - 2. He was not accepted in His own home town.
 - 3. The spiritual leaders rejected his claims and worked constantly to bring him down.
 - 4. The horrors of hell were unleashed at him from the cradle to the grave.
 - 5. When he asked his friends to pray for him in the garden they fell asleep.
 - 6. When the Romans crucified him he prayed for his tormentors.
 - 7. When they mocked him, spit upon him and smote him he opened not his mouth.
 - 8. His sacrifice was an eternal one, because he will have the marks of the crucifixion for all eternity.
 - 9. We can never repay Him for what he went through (Ps. 49:7-8).

- D. Appeal - He wants us to go the extra mile in reaching out to those we come in contact with so He might reach them, through our lives (Mt. 5:38-42; 2 Cor. 4:7).