

**Lenten Series 2006: Baptized into His Death—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—3/15/06**

**Title: Baptized Bath**

**Text: John 13: 1-11 and Titus 3: 4-7**

**Intro:***Ills.: bath tub toys*

**Theme:** Our baptism is more than just a symbolic act in our life. It connects us with the life of Jesus so that we might pass from death to life. But it also connects us to the death of Christ that we might unconditionally live for him as he did for us.

*Not always understanding the full extent of Jesus life, yet he invites us to step by faith into it*

- Jesus came into the foot-washing with a full understanding of the Father's will and what it mean for his life
  - A. He knew that the hour of his substitutionary death was at hand
    - 1. *"Who for the joy set before him endured the cross . . . Heb. 12:2*
  - B. He love those committed to him so much that he committed to give the ultimate love
    - 1. *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. John 15: 13*
  - C. He understood that he had the authority and full backing of the Father which he was called to walk into "*by faith*"
    - 1. **Ills.: All of Jesus requires all of us**
- The foot washing by Jesus was more than ceremonially; it was a call to an unconditional relationship *by faith*
  - A. Jesus told Peter that he did not want an "intellectual assent" to his Lordship but an intimate relationship commitment
    - 1. Jesus said it was not about Peter understanding it now but with a promise later that he would
    - 2. *Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Cor. 13: 12*
  - B. Peter's and our resistance to Jesus comes not from the mind (lack of knowledge) but of will (lack of control)
    - 1. Peter was embarrassed to be following a leader who would stoop to do such menial things
    - 2. Do we want a "*cool Jesus*" or the one which he really is?
  - C. We must come to grips with what it means to us when Jesus says, "***follow me***"
    - 1. *I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13: 15*
    - 2. **Ills.: The Pain of Being Baptized into Christ**
      - 2. Follow me in my love, in my submission to the Father, in my sacrifice, but also into my glory

*At our baptisms we participated in a drowning to ourselves so that we can come alive to him*

- In our baptism celebrating that it is no longer about my self-esteem (Peter's concern) but Christ-esteem
  - A. Jesus told Peter it was about a washing needed in Peter's life in which he drowned to himself and came alive to him
    - 1. Still wanting to be in control Peter wanted a ***deluxe*** wash — but Jesus the amount not important as the result
    - 2. **Read Titus 3: 4-7** — understanding that surrender to Jesus is a complete and unconditional event by his power
  - B. It is about being crucified in the One who was crucified for you.
    - 1. *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2: 20*
    - 2. Repent, convert, be transformed, and live new lives
    - 3. Martin Luther said of our baptism, "***What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.***"
- Participating in Jesus death and resurrection through our baptism as a means to that grace
  - A. Receiving the forgiveness and assurance of it on a daily basis for when we fall and fail
    - 1. The wonder of God's grace to us in Jesus' redemption through our baptism is it is not about performance but grace
    - 2. *For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. Rom 6: 14*
  - B. Receiving the power to take a stand against sin and stubborn pride and in its place put a humble submission to God
    - 1. **Ills.: When down is up**

### **Titus 3:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

### **John 13:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. <sup>2</sup>The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." <sup>9</sup>"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

### **All of Jesus Requires All of Us**

He cannot bless us unless he has us. When we try to keep within us an area that is our own, we try to keep an area of death. Therefore, in love, He claims all. There's no bargaining with Him. **C.S. Lewis in *The Weight of Glory*.**

### **Christianity Today, Vol. 34, no. 16**

### **The Pain of Being Baptized in Christ**

The story is told about the baptism of King Aengus by St. Patrick in the middle of the fifth century. Sometime during the rite, St. Patrick leaned on his sharp-pointed staff and inadvertently stabbed the king's foot. After the baptism was over, St. Patrick looked down at all the blood, realized what he had done, and begged the king's forgiveness. Why did you suffer this pain in silence, the Saint wanted to know. The king replied, "I thought it was part of the ritual." **Knowing the Face of God, Tim Stafford, p. 121ff**

### **When Down Is Up**

In the movie *The Poseidon Adventure*, the ocean liner S.S. Poseidon is on the open sea when it hits a huge storm. Lights go out, smoke pours into rooms and, amid all the confusion, the ship flips over. Because of the air trapped inside the ocean liner, it floats upside down. But in the confusion, the passengers can't figure out what's going on. They scramble to get out, mostly by following the steps to the top deck. The problem is, the top deck is now 100 feet under water. In trying to get to the top of the ship, they drown. The only survivors are the few who do what doesn't make sense. They do the opposite of what everyone else is doing and climb up into the dark belly of the ship until they reach the hull. Rescuers hear them banging and cut them free. In life, it's as if God has turned the ship over and the only way for us to find freedom is to choose what doesn't make sense: lay down our lives by serving, supporting, and sacrificing for others. **Men of Integrity, Vol. 1, no. 2.**