

BEYOND SUNDAY

A SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

SERMON DATE • SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Missed the sermon? Watch [here](#).

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This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

MESSAGE THEME & PRAYER FOCUS

What is Water Baptism?

"Father, thank you for making it possible for me to follow you in all my ways. Strengthen me by your Holy Spirit to see, hear, and follow the truth you speak through your Word. Thank you for every opportunity you bless me with to receive and then follow through with that truth, modelling your love and grace to the world around me in Jesus' name. Amen!"

KEY CONCEPTS/TRUTHS

Baptism is going public in our belief of Jesus, committing to live for Him the rest of our lives. Peter actually commanded Christians to be baptized once they believed.

The word "baptism" literally means "immersion". In scripture, every time someone was baptized, they were fully immersed in water as a sign of their old way of life being put to death, and a new way of life began.

We all have a next step in our faith journey. The first step is to believe, and Jesus tells us the next step is always water baptism. But it doesn't end there. We are to be always growing, taking another step in the direction God would have us go by the power of His Spirit.

Jesus asks us all to be water baptized to identify with Him and His life, death, burial, and resurrection. He isn't just interested in us becoming a Christian and getting to Heaven, He wants us to be disciples and to be like Him every day of our lives.

The sprinkling of water as an infant may be a good dedication of our children to the Lord, but it by no means takes the place of fully being immersed in water as Christ was, as He says for us to be as well.

Jesus says that those who believe will be saved. In western Christianity we tend to view being saved as just going to Heaven, but Jesus meant so much more than that. His definition of “saved” has always been “to be delivered, protected, healed, made whole, and preserved.” It was more about a way of life than a happening after death.

Jesus died not to simply get us to Heaven, but to get the Kingdom of Heaven inside every one of us. Christianity is personal, but it is not private. Because Jesus was baptized, there should be no reason why we, as His followers, should not be baptized in the same way.

Baptism sets up a barrier between us and our old way of life. In water baptism, by faith, we drown the things of our old life like sin and desires that would try to follow us into our new life. At baptism, our faith connects with what Jesus did for us.

Baptism is so much more than some Christian ritual. It’s a confession, an exit, and a burial of our old way of life partnered with a promise for more in life. It’s a symbol that we’ve given our life to Jesus and a starting point to receive power by God’s Holy Spirit to walk in the way that He created us.

Key Verses:

Matthew 3:15 • Matthew 11:12 • Matthew 28:19 • Acts 8:36-39 • 1 Corinthians 10:1-2 • 1 Peter 3:21 • 2 Corinthians 5:17 • Romans 6:4 • Romans 1:16

DAILY APPLICATION

Sometimes we don’t move forward with something new because we have yet to recognize the level of benefit in what lies ahead. If we haven’t been baptized, there is no way for us to fully understand the life that Jesus has prepared for us to walk in. Even if we have been baptized, it takes a conscious effort to begin living that way, with power and authority through Jesus’ name. Baptism certainly unlocks the ability for us to begin walking in that newness of life through its public declaration of following Jesus, but to actually make the decision to take Jesus up on His offer of new life and begin to operate in that fullness is on us.

Living life is a choice. It doesn’t just happen to us. Following Jesus isn’t something that we default into. When we truly decide to live the way that He’s called us to, the richness of life on the other side of that decision is immense. There is a level of joy, peace, and prosperity found only in following Jesus. He modelled a way for us to live through His life on earth. Only by adopting His way of life, and all that He commands of us, will we fully live in the fullness that He intended for us. So say, “yes” to Him. Follow Him in baptism, receiving the Holy Spirit, listening to what He says and walking in the same life that He modeled for us all. Life will never be the same.

THIS WEEK’S DECLARATIONS

"I say, "Yes" to Jesus. My "Yes" means I follow what His Word says and what He leads me in by His Holy Spirit. The life I used to live is gone because Jesus' new life is in me. I put to death my old life and choose to follow Jesus' example. I walk in the Spirit, experiencing His life and modelling for others to see and follow. I advance the Kingdom of Heaven and make more of it a reality through my actions everyday in service to Christ. I will let my light shine as an example pointing to God, for His glory, in Jesus' name!"

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.



*If hearing God or anything mentioned in this study is new to you then we invite you to take the Next Step.
Further information can be found at reslife.org/nextsteps*