

A SILENT SERMON

Romans 6:1-14

Introduction: A Seminary professor who taught a class on preaching took his class into town to preach. Everyone thought they would stand on corners and preach. He led them through the streets of the town not allowing anybody to speak a word to anyone. When they got back to the campus, they asked him when were they going to get to preach. He replied, "you already have for as you walked around town, people were watching you. How you conducted yourselves was preaching a sermon. How we act speaks louder than what we might have to say.

What kind of sermon have you preached this week? Now with words but with what people noticed about you. Perhaps the most powerful message we can preach to the world is a silent one. Our lives reveal our true persons. Far outweighing what we might have to say.

There is something that Christians do that in it's silence speaks louder and more clearer than any sermon any preacher can preach and that is BAPTISM.

I. BAPTISM IDENTIFIES THE ONE BEING BAPTIZED WITH JESUS CHRIST

1. Remember the story told of the tight wire walker that stretched a wire across Niagara Falls and as hundreds watched, he walked carefully across to the other side and then back again. Everyone was thrilled and applauded. He then got a wheelbarrow and walked the wire across and back again pushing the wheelbarrow. Excitement again. He asked "do you think I can do this again with someone sitting in the wheelbarrow?" Everyone cried out, "Yes you can.." Then he asked , "who will be first?" Silence. Their real faith was revealed.
2. Baptism is the believer's silent and dramatic declaration that he/she is **ALREADY** united with Jesus Christ through his/her faith.

II. REAL, TRUE, GENUINE BAPTISM IS WHEN SINCERE BELIEVERS ARE BAPTIZED

1. **Acts 2:37-43** describes people hearing and believing and then committing themselves to Jesus Christ by repentance and faith.
2. The book of **Romans** clearly presents the fact that **FAITH** in Jesus Christ is necessary for a right relationship with God (God knows when it is sincere faith).
3. A personal, saving faith is necessary for genuine, true baptism, therefore ruling out infant baptism. A person has to respond to Jesus with a conscious, personal commitment, which infants can not do. Therefore genuine baptism occurs only with sincere believers.

III. BAPTISM IS A PICTURE, AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INWARD, HEART ACT

1. Baptism of believers is a symbol of a sincere and irrevocable commitment to Jesus Christ.

2. Baptism is a wonderful expression, symbol of Jesus' absolute ownership of the believer and of that person's total devotion to Jesus.

IV. BAPTISM IDENTIFIES THE BELIEVER WITH JESUS'S DEATH

1. When the believer is united with Jesus Christ through his/her faith, the believer is accepting Jesus' death at Calvary as his/her own death.

V. BAPTISM INDICATES THAT THE BELIEVER HAS DIED TO HIM/HER OWN SELF

1. Baptism indicates that the believer stops living for SELF and begins living as God wants.
2. Baptism declares that the believer has died to him/herself and that Jesus Christ now reigns as king/ruler of his/her life.

VI. BAPTISM SPEAKS OF DEATH OF SIN IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

1. Jesus Christ is now the master of the believer's life, instead of sin. Somewhat like changing employers. No longer working for the old one but a new one.
2. Baptism declares that the believer no longer lives under the rule of sin and the world but that Jesus Christ is now in charge of his/her life.

VII. BAPTISM SPEAKS ABOUT BEING UNITED WITH JESUS IN HIS BURIAL

1. The believer's old self is buried "symbolically" in the watery grave of baptism. When the believer is lowered into the water, it declares figuratively that he/she has died - to the old way of life.
2. The believer is dead to self and sin as Jesus was dead to his friends after His body was laid in the tomb.
3. Only immersion can vividly picture the burial of the believer's death to sin and self. Sprinkling and pouring show nothing of death and burial.

VIII. BAPTISM IDENTIFIES WITH JESUS' RESURRECTION

1. When the believer is raised up out of the watery grave, it symbolically pictures that believer as being raised from being dead spiritually.
2. Because Jesus was resurrected, and baptism identifies the believer publicly with the truth that he/she will also be resurrected one day to eternal life.

IX. BAPTISM IS A PICTURE OF A NEW QUALITY OF LIFE

1. God has seen fit to transform the believer's old self and give that believer a new quality of life. The believer is a different person after believing in Jesus.
2. It is important that the believer share with others his/her new life. Talking about it, yes, but the best way is living day by day and showing others the wonderful change.

X. BAPTISM DRAMATICALLY WITNESS OF THE RELEASE OF THE BELIVER FROM SIN

1. God has set the believer free from being enslaved to sin.
2. The believer now acknowledges Jesus as ruler and owner of his/her life.
3. The believer is now the feet, hands, and voice of Jesus to the world.

CONCLUSION:

1. Baptism is a silent sermon. No spoken words needed. What it represents is beautiful.
2. Baptism is a **MUST** for every sincere, true believer in Jesus Christ.
3. If one is sincere in his/her belief in Jesus, then there **WILL** be a desire to publicly identify with Jesus and all He stands for and that is through public baptism.
4. Those who hesitate or don't want to be baptized indicate that they are not sincere believers.
5. So, you who have been baptized, was it the real, genuine true thing for you? Or did you just get wet? Has your life been different since your public identification with Jesus through baptism?