

Why Jesus Didn't Personally Baptize With Water

One of the most important questions, yet ignored to be asked & answered, is that of why the Lord Jesus didn't personally baptize disciples during His earthly ministry?

John 4:1-2 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, **2** (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

...Though Jesus himself BAPTIZED NOT, but HIS DISCIPLES

Few can give a straight answer as to how one was justified (saved) during the earthly ministry of Jesus. Think about it... for a short period of time both the ministries of John the Baptist & Jesus' overlapped at the same time. Jews were being 'saved' under each's ministry, but how? What did a Jew have to believe and/or do to be saved? John is in one location while Jesus is in another! Without proper understanding of O.T. justification and difference between justification by faith & through faith (**Rom 3:29-30**), this question cannot be properly answered!

Contrary to popular belief by many, John the Baptist wasn't the first baptizer w/water... "And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? **20** And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. **21** And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. **22** Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? **23** He said, I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. **24** And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. **25** And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?" **John 1:19-25**

...WHY BAPTIZEST THOU THEN, if thou be not THAT CHRIST, nor ELIAS, neither THAT PROPHET?

In the 3rd month after Israel was delivered from Egypt and at same time the LORD began initiating the Law (Mosaic Covenant), that covenanted for Israel's righteousness (**Dt 6:23-25; Acts 13:38-39**), Moses was given the following instructions... "And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,... **14** And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes." **Exodus 19:10-14**

...and sanctified the people; and THEY WASHED THEIR CLOTHES.

Along with a priesthood being established within the nation, Israel herself was to be a kingdom of priests among all nations (**Ex 19:5-6**). After this initial sanctification, many divers' washings were also put in place: A. Priests were washed prior to ministry before Jehovah (**Ex 29:1-4**). B. Priests washed clothes after sacrificing (**Lev 16:23-28**). C. Priests washed legs and inwards of sacrifices (**Lev 1:9-13**). D. Lepers went through many ceremonial washings (**Lev 15:5-27**). E. People were to wash after defilement (**Num 19:1-21**).

As with the breaking of many other laws, there were serious consequences for breaking these washings:

"So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not:...they shall wash with water, that they die not;" **Ex 30:20, 21** "But if he wash them not, nor bathe his flesh; then he shall bear his iniquity." **Lev 17:16** "...that soul shall be cut off from My presence...lest they bear sin for it, and die therefore,..." **Lev**

22:3, 9 "...and that soul shall be cut off from Israel:...that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation, because he hath defiled the sanctuary of the LORD: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he *is* unclean." **Num 19:13, 20**

...then HE SHALL BEAR HIS INIQUITY

...THAT SOUL SHALL BE CUT OFF FROM MY PRESENCE

...THAT SOUL SHALL BE CUT OFF FROM AMONG THE CONGREGATION

John the Baptist, the forerunner of that prophet like unto Moses (**Acts 3:22; 7:37**), came baptizing with water in preparing Israel for her Messiah and the establishment of a prophesied New Covenant. John's message was one of repentance as he preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins... "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. **4** John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. **5** And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins." **Mark 1:3-5**

...John did baptize in the wilderness, and PREACH THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS

...and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, CONFESSING THEIR SINS

John's baptism, as were the divers' washings, was a water of separation & mandated under the kingdom gospel... "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: **9** And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. **10** And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **11** I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:" **Matthew 3:7-11**

...now also the AXE IS LAID UNTO THE ROOT OF THE TREES

...therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and CAST INTO THE FIRE

Luke 7:29-30 "And all the people that heard *him*, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. **30** But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him."

...But the Pharisees and lawyers REJECTED THE COUNSEL OF GOD AGAINST THEMSELVES, being NOT BAPTIZED OF HIM

This now brings us unto the scene in asking aforementioned question... "After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. **23** And John also was baptizing in AEnon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. **24** For John was not yet cast into prison. **25** Then there arose a question between *some* of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. **26** And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all *men* come to him." **John 3:22-26**

Jesus & His disciples were preaching the same kingdom message as John and baptizing for the remission of sins. Though neither Moses or Jesus performed the actual baptisms, both are credited. Again, the question... Why didn't Jesus perform the actual ritual... (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)?

The real questions is... Why would He? Why would He who could forgive sins baptize someone for the remission of their sins!? Twice the Lord Jesus 'Stepped Outside the Box' to demonstrate that He had power on earth to forgive sins though not being the norm at that time.

Luke 7:37-39 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, **38** And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment. **39** Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner... **Luke 7:47-50** Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little. **48** And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. **49** And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? **50** And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

...And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, WHO IS THIS THAT FORGIVETH SINS ALSO?

Luke 5:20-24 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. **21** And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? **22** But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? **23** Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? **24** But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

...But that YE MAY KNOW THAT THE SON OF MAN HATH POWER UPON EARTH TO FORGIVE SINS,...

Why is this question & answer so essential to be understood? Under the kingdom offer to Israel, at the time of John the Baptist, Jesus & his disciples pre & post cross ministries, baptism w/water was a prerequisite (**Lk 7:29-30; Mk 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-38**). After Israel's rejection of her Messiah and blaspheming of the Holy Ghost (**Acts 7:51-60**), she is no longer functioning as a priesthood until the Millennial reign of Christ (**Mt 28:16-20; Micah 4:1-3; Zech 14:1-21(9); Isa 52**).

Today, in this dispensation of the grace of God toward Gentiles (**Eph 3:1-9**), there is but one Mediator between God and man and it isn't the Catholic Church or any denomination or preacher claiming they have the sole rights to remitting or retaining sins as did the Apostles... "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you. **22** And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: **23** Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained." **John 20:21-23**

It is Paul who now brings the Gentle into the picture outside of the mediating work of the nation of Israel... "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in

your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.” **Romans 11:25**

1 Timothy 2:5-7 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; **6** Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. **7** Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Ephesians 3:1-2 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, **2** If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Only in understanding Paul’s gospel and uniqueness of his message & ministry can questions such as this be logically and biblically addressed (**Gal 1:10-12; Rom 16:25-26**)! Today, baptism w/water doesn’t add one iota to one’s righteousness or justification before the Lord... “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.”

1 Corinthians 1:17

Romans 10:8-10 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; **9** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.