

Jesus' Baptism Connects Jesus to You – Your Baptism Connects You to Jesus

- Title. Those 2 very imp truths: taught in rdngs for today. Let's start w/1st: J to you. Today we celbrt bap/Lord, as do on 1st Sun after Epiph ev yr. We return again to Jordan R to see what expect see (Son/God baptzd by Jn), and behold what expect behold (HS descndng as dove on Sav), and hear what expect hear (booming voice Fr: **"You: my son, love; w/you well pleased"**). But once again, have to ask, as do ev yr: why was J baptzd anyway? Why? Mk: **"JB appeared in wildrns, prchg a bap/repntnc for forgvness/sins."** J had no sins be forgivn, nothing repent of. Hwvr, we do; most certly do. So J came be our Sav by being one w/us. He: Immanuel, God w/us. He: born w/us, grew up, suffrd pain, temptd, came live human life; and was baptzd – w/us. The Sav/wrld starts his pub min of saving sinners by entering sinners' water and connctng self to us in bap. J: not discnctd fr us;



- is not distant deity; has not sequestered self in some private hvnly throne room. No, J comes to us, right where we're at: in sinful/brkn wrld, amng sinful/brkn ppl. Thnk: who else came river be baptzd by Jn? **"The whole Judean cntrysd & all the ppl/Jrslm went out to him. Confssng their sins, they were baptzd by him in the Jordan R."** And I don't know exctly what they confssd; but I certly know what confssn sounds like, and it's ugly – verblzng of rebelln vs God. And you know what confssn sounds like too, bec your mouths've confssd to your Pr, and your hrts've confssd to your God. But J does not distance self fr sinners: at Jordan or at St. Jn's. No, J stands shldr/shldr w/us in waters/bap. He connects self to us by being washed in our water. J's bap conncts J to you.
- It's like J saying: "Look, I'm right here w/you. You can find me in manger, on cross, risen in upper room, and in water. I've come live amng you, bear your sin, die your dth, and be washed w/you in bap. So really, msg/manger is same as msg/river: J has come down fr hvn to be born & baptzd amng us. He is Immanuel, God w/us; he conncts self to us. One of my fav Xmas hymns (sang on Xmas morn): *"Now God's own Son with us is one and joins us and our children in our weakness"* (CW 342:2). Joins us in Bethlehem; joins us in Jordan. J's bap conncts J to you.
- And, your bap conncts you to J. That's other main msg/day, that Paul emphsyzs in Rom 6. Says it like this: **vs. 3**. So your bap conncts you J's dth. **Vs. 4a** (conncts J's burial); **vs. 4b-5** (conncts J's res). Paul is saying: when you're baptzd, you: joined, linked, united, connctd to dth/burial/res/J.
- But what in wrld that mean? Well, down-to-earth comprsn, all can undrstnd. Many/you in this cong drive truck or large vehcl, and many/you use your truck to haul trailer. I do: use my suburban to haul camper. So here's comprsn: J is truck; you trailer; and your bap is hitch that conncts you to J. Where J goes, you go, bec you're connctd to J by bap, like trailer connctd to truck by hitch. So, J dies on cross; you die there too; J buried in tomb; you're buried there too; J raised to life; you're raised up too – and it's all bec you're connctd to J by bap, the way trailer's connctd to truck by hitch.
- It's kinda earthy comprsn, I know; but it's really what Paul saying in Rom 6: your bap connects you to J. On cross, you & your sins died w/J. In tomb, you & your sins buried w/J. **Vs. 3-4a**. So, waters/bap are like a cross & grave. Your sins: drowned & sink to bottom/font. But then on ES morn, J came back to life and walked out tomb. And since you're connctd to J thru bap, it's like J took you by hand, and you walked out tomb w/him. **Vs. 4b**. The waters/bap are like an empty tomb. You come up out water like walking out tomb. You have a new life.

- And yes, that new life included etrnal life in hvn. But that new life: also lived right now, here on earth. If it's true that your bap conncts you J, then also means: you live your life way J lived his: say no to sin. Paul: vs. 1. IOW, if God loves forgive sins, shld we give him lot/sins to forgive – raise our sin level so God has raise his grace level? Paul: vs. 2 (bonkers!). Here's anthr earthy comprsn. Pretend mid/summer, July, 100°, working blazing sun, grass/garden, hot/sweaty, clothes covered sweat/dirt. Come in, take cool shower. Are you going put on those dirty/sweaty clothes again. By no means; bonkers! You put on clean clothes! In Gal, Paul: “**All of you who were baptzd into Xp have clothed selves w/Xp**” (3:27). And here: vs. 2 (wear it). So as baptzd bels, we don't: put on filthy/dirty clothes we threw in hamper; return to filthy/dirty lifestyle of unbptzd wrld. You: connctd to J. So live like it! Wear/live Xp – in how you speak w/words; what look at w/eyes; what listen to w/ears; what think re in mind; how live your Xian life. Bap changes you, for next life, but also for this life. So live like you're baptzd. Vs. 11.
- Bec, you're connctd to J. Title. And that intimate connctn to Son/God is smthng you shld never take for granted. Never undrstmt imprtnc of your bap, or J's bap. He entered water/manger/tomb/wrld to stand shldr/shldr w/you, as Immanuel, God w/us. And when J baptzd you, he connctd you to himself. So now, Fr says: “You: my son/dghtr whom I love.” Now HS descends fr hvn into your hrt. Title. Treasure that connection, now & forever.

Mark 1:4-11

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.