

BAPTIZING DISCIPLES

After the first Passover of the ministry of Jesus Christ, His disciples began baptizing (John 3:22; 2:13, 23-25). At this same time, a dispute arose from the Pharisees comparing their ceremonial washing (John 9:11, 14-16, 27-28) to the baptism of John and Jesus (John 3:25-26).

Following this dispute, Jesus stopped at Jacob's well while on a recruiting campaign for disciples. "When therefore the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making (poieo / p.a.ind) and baptizing (baptizo / p.a.ind) more disciples than John." (John 4:1)

Note this footnote given in John 4:2 "Although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were."

Jesus had just left a disciple recruiting campaign in Judea when He stopped at Jacob's Well resulting in many Samaritans believing and yet Jesus' disciples didn't baptize them at this time (John 4:3, 39-45).

This lesson will study FIVE aspects for BAPTIZING DISCIPLES of Jesus Christ.

1. John was instructed to use water baptism as a way to identify the person of the messiah.

"And I did not recognize Him, but in order that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water."
(John 1:31) [John the Baptist]

John the Baptist was sent by God to be the prophetic forerunner of Christ (Matt.3:1-3). "He said, 'I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said.'" (John 1:19-28; Isa.40:3; Mal.3:1; 4:5-6)

Jesus taught His disciples the ramifications of His baptism by John the Baptist in Mark 10:35-45/ 38-39.

2. John was also instructed to use it as a way to call out a community of Believers for the coming of the messiah (John 1:19-28).

"I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know." (John 1:26)

"And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'he upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'" (John 1:33)

Question: Why did John still baptize Jewish believers after Jesus was identified as Messiah? (4:2)

Paul explained: "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is Jesus. And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."
(Acts 19:1-7) [Disciples of John]

3. Eight questions will be answered regarding the baptism of disciples of Jesus Christ (John 3:22).

- Why did the sinless Son of God need to be baptized by an (Adamic) sinful John? (John 1:31, 33-34)
- Why wouldn't Jesus baptize John the Baptist? (Matt.3:11-17)
- Why were only Jewish believers baptized by the disciples of John and Jesus? (John 1:29-34)

- Why weren't Gentiles or Samaritans baptized prior to Pentecost? (Acts 8:34-38; 10:44-48; 11:15-18; 16:15, 31-34)
- Why didn't Jesus baptize anyone during His earthly ministry? (John 2:11; 3:22; 4:1-2; Matt.3:11)
- Why weren't women Believers baptized prior to Pentecost? (Acts 2; Gal.3:27-28)
- Why did it all change after Pentecost as recorded in the Book of Acts? (Acts 1:4-5; 11:16)
- Why did some of the disciples of John the Baptist have to be rebaptized in Acts 19:1-7 (1 Cor.1:13-15)?

John and Jesus used water baptism to identify Jewish Believers with His messiahship (John 1:29-34)

4. John the Baptist explained that there were two important baptisms connected with the first Advent of Jesus Christ.

“As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance (Matt.3:7-12; Acts 19:4-5), but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matt.3:11 fire is explained in 3:12 as part of Second Advent; Joel 2:28-29 Holy Spirit and Joel 2:30-32 Fire)

5. The important baptism of the church age is the baptism of Holy Spirit by Jesus Christ

(Acts 1:5) “For John baptized with water, **but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.” [Jesus to His disciples]

(Acts 11:16) “And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit.**’.” [Peter regarding salvation of Gentiles] (Acts 1:4-5).

6. The following five points are important regarding the baptizing of disciples.

- John's water baptism identified Jewish age believers with the baptism of the person of Jesus as the Messiah (John 1:24-34).
- Water baptism identified Jewish age believers with the prophetic gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:14-15; 1 Cor.15:3-4).
- Jewish age believers were identified with the baptism of the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ at Pentecost by the gift of tongues (Acts 2; 8; 10-11; 19; Joel 2:28-32).
- Other church age believers were identified throughout the Book of Acts with the baptism of Holy Spirit (ch. 8) [Samaritans], (ch. 10-11) [Gentiles], and (ch. 19) [John's disciples].
- Paul had a casual attitude towards water baptism among the Gentile Church Age Believers (1 Cor.1:13-17). He did not see it as being essential neither for Salvation nor for the Great Commission, but rather as an act of the Believer identifying with the baptism of Holy Spirit by Christ. (Rom.6:3-4; 1 Cor.12:13; Gal.3:26-28; Eph.4:5; Col.2:12)