



Mamlaka Hill Chapel
“Empowered to Transform Lives, Society, and the World”
R.E.A.L Group Study for the Week of 12th March to 18th March
2017
Sermon: Baptism

Series: “Church Life”

ICEBREAKER

What thoughts might you have had in the past about baptism prior to coming to Mamlaka?

Scripture Reading: Rom. 5:20 – 6:4

Baptism is an important Christian ordinance commanded by Jesus for all believers (Matt. 28:19-20). Today, there're varied views on the meaning and method of baptism. Additionally, Christians sometimes fail to appreciate its profound significance. The New Testament writers paid significant attention to this practice, and therefore a careful deliberation on it is well worth our time.

1. The need for baptism.

Read 1 Peter 3:20 – 22

Practice helps us to concretize what is sometimes theoretical ... Baptism is a symbolic expression of the heart's appeal to God. It's a call on God that says, *“With my whole body, I trust you to take me into Jesus Christ just like Noah was taken into the ark.”*

- I. How does the symbolic nature of baptism influence the way we think about *who* should be baptized?
- II. Why do you think Jesus placed special emphasis on the use of this (and another) symbol to re-enact salvation? What does this say about human nature, and about God?

2. The method for baptism

Read: Matt. 3:6, 16; John 3:23 & Acts 8:38

- I. List some of the reasons given for different modes of baptism you may be aware of apart from immersion. How do you think Christians should respond to this?
- II. How do the texts you have just read challenge contemporary views on the method of baptism?
- III. What specific things do you think are lost in alternative forms of baptism other than immersion?

3. The drama of baptism

Read 5:20 – 6:4

During baptism, a significant enactment (drama) happens in which as we go into the water, (i) we portray that death had to occur and (ii) we are raised into a newness of life.

- I. Knowledge of the fact that death had to occur, and Christ chose to die in our stead ought to cause us to reflect on and respond to His love. Share **two practical ways** you will respond to Christ's love this week.
- II. Have you been baptized as a believer through immersion, thereby making a public declaration of your faith?
 - a. If so, share one aspect of the significance of baptism that you feel was clarified encouraged towards. Also, think about **one specific** area of your life in which you see the old self showing up. What are you going to do about it this week, to walk in the newness of life into which you have been raised?
 - b. If not, what practical steps can you take today?

Scripture Memory: Rom. 6:4
Scripture Readings (NIV)

Rom. 5:20 – 6:4

20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Chapter. 6 Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We 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.

Colossians 2:6, 7, 12

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

1 Peter 3:20-22

20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.