

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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This week Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs continued in our series, *Radical: Stop Playing It Safe*, addressing radical faith that is displayed in the act of baptism.

Radical faith is:

- Not just believing, but boldly acting on it.
- Required when you make a decision to follow Jesus.

Baptism – a command of Jesus

- Jesus did it.
- Jesus asks us to do it.
- It's a very personal experience.
- It is an outward expression of an inward change and commitment.

SCRIPTURE

HEBREWS 11:1-3, 6 NCV

Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it. ² Faith is the reason we remember great people who lived in the past. ³ It is by faith we understand that the whole world was made by God's command so what we see was made by something that cannot be seen ... ⁶ Without faith no one can please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who truly want to find him.

MATTHEW 3:13-17 RSV

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; ¹⁷ and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

COLOSSIANS 2:11-12

¹¹ When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. ¹² For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

ROMANS 6:1-11

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ² Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³ Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

⁵ Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁶ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. ⁸ And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. ⁹ We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰ When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹ So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

ACTS 22:16

¹⁶ What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.'

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Marty's message?
2. Read Hebrews 11:1-3, 6. What is faith? How would you put this in your own words?
3. Read Matthew 3:13-17. What do you learn about the baptism of Jesus?
4. Read Colossians 2:11-12 and Romans 6:1-11. What does baptism symbolize?
5. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 22:16. Why is baptism important?
6. How have your thoughts about baptism changed over the years?
7. Have you been baptized? If not, what is keeping you from it? If so, what did it mean to you personally? Is there someone in your life you can encourage in their faith and the command to be baptized?
8. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Thank God for the life of his one and only Son who brought us forgiveness through his death on the cross and delivers us to new life through his resurrection. Ask God to convict you to be baptized if you haven't been, and if you have been baptized, to emphasize the change and commitment represented by your baptism.