

Sermon Study Guide – January 7th, 2018:

Today's Focus – "FaceTime with God... in Baptism"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Do you use FaceTime? (or, another video app?) With whom do you use it? How does it make you feel?
- ◆ Can you feel connected to God like this, even when he's not "in the room"? How can baptism connect you to God in this way?

2) Today's Message: Mark 1:4-11

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The 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. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ And 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. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...

1. What was strange about the people of Jerusalem going to John?
2. Yet, why did these people still go to John?
3. How did God present baptism as a solution for their problems?
4. What was the difference between John and the one for whom he was a forerunner: Jesus?
5. Why was Jesus baptized? (Matthew 3) How do our baptisms connect to this? (Romans 6)
6. God tells us baptism is more than just a symbol. What does it do? And how does that give us “face time” with God?

4) Taking it Home:

Consider the following as you go about your week:

- ◆ As you think about what we talked about today, for what challenges in your life has God specifically given you baptism as a gift? Conversely, how would viewing baptism as your work (and not God’s work) gut this gift of its help?
- ◆ When in our worship does baptism come to mind (whether specifically, or implicitly through references to the triune God in whose name we baptize)? Why are those appropriate times to think of baptism and the “FaceTime” it gives us with God?

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:

Monday: *review* Is. 49:1-7, Col. 2:8-15

Tuesday: Matthew 3

Wednesday: Romans 6:1-14

Thursday: Isaiah 1:10-28

Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-22

Saturday: *review* Mark 1:4-11