

Lesson 20 – Means of Grace: Sacrament of Baptism

Goals – The students will know:

- What baptism symbolizes
- What baptism call us to do

Question: What is the outward visible sign or form in Baptism?

Answer: Water; wherein the person is baptized, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Question: What is the inward and spiritual grace?

Answer: A death unto sin, and a new birth unto righteousness: for being by nature born in sin, and the children of wrath, we are hereby made the children of grace.

Question: What is required of persons to be baptized?

Answer: Repentance, whereby they forsake sin; and Faith, whereby they steadfastly believe the promises of God made to them in that Sacrament.

Question: Why then are Infants baptized, when by reason of their tender age they cannot perform them?

Answer: Because they promise them both by their Sureties; which promise, when they come to age, themselves are bound to perform.

Scripture:

Romans 6:3

Where in Scripture does Christ institute and command the sacrament of Baptism?

Matthew 28: use var. “Make disciples” not “teach all nations”

Mark 16. Note promise of grace.

Instruction:

(Lesson could be conducted in the Church in front of the baptismal font and the activity as part of the lesson)

How many of you have seen a baptism? What happens during a baptism? What does the priest do? As we learned last week, it is one of the two chief Sacraments. Who can remember the other?

What does the outward sign in Baptism symbolize?

- In the sacrament of Baptism, God shows us what he does, and does what he shows us:

- He shows us a **washing from sin**, in its most radical form, as when the flood washed the world clean in the days of Noah, by drowning the wicked.
 - God not only promises a washing away of our sins, but also **death and resurrection**: to put to death (drown) the sinful “old man” in us, and in its place to raise up a “new man”, of righteousness and holiness.

 - In that death and resurrection, those born into the world are the children of wrath – that is, outside the covenant of blessing, and subject to the law and its penalties for disobedience.

 - Through baptism we are **reborn (regeneration)** as the children of grace – that is, born within the covenant of blessing, and subject to the grace and mercy of God.
- As the sacrament of our new birth (regeneration), baptism is the sign of the beginning of spiritual life in Christ, and it is the gateway to all other sacraments.

 - You can't receive any other sacrament until you have received baptism first.

 - *What life does baptism call us to?*
 - Because in Christ we have died to sin, and risen again to righteousness, it is our calling and vocation as Christians continually to put sin to death, and to rise again to new habits of virtue and righteousness.

 - What are things you can do “put sin to death” and “rise again to new habits of virtue and righteousness? (Follow the 10 commandments, come to church, say your prayers, love God and love others. . .)

Prayer:

We thank you, Lord, for the Sacrament of Baptism which your Son has given to your Church, and for the gifts of grace that come to us through it: for the forgiveness of sins, and the beginning of a new life in your Spirit: help us who baptized, to live as your dear children, and heirs of your heavenly kingdom, by dying to sin, and rising to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Activity:

Take the children to the church for a study of the baptismal font. Remind the children that they were baptized as babies by the priest, in the presence of their parents and sponsors. Show them that the font is filled with pure water. The priest prays, and reads the Gospel. Then the sponsors answer questions for the child who cannot speak, in the child's name, promising to renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, and the sinful desires of the flesh. There are several more questions, and then prayers of thanksgiving and asking God to strengthen the child to have victory over the devil. Then the priest asks the sponsors to name the child (first, or "given" name). Then he baptizes the child with water from the font, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

After prayers of thanksgiving, and a blessing, the service concludes.

Alternate Activity or in addition to:

Continue Sacraments card game from last week.