

Luke: Baptism

- ✚ **Luke 3:3, 21-22;** This was not John's idea, it was God's, **John 1:33.** He's sent by the Father and then the Son comes to undergo what John has been preaching to masses. So, was Jesus' repenting?
- ✚ **Matthew 3:13-15;** John recognized his own need for repentance, but he knew Jesus had no need of it.

1. The first Baptisms at this place happened centuries before.

- ✓ **Joshua 1:11; 3:10-4:7;** The first thing to note is that this is the exact same spot where John baptizes and where Jesus is baptized. This place is called "House of preparation," **Bethabara**, or "house of obedience," **Bethany**, but eventually was called "house of crossing."
 - ✓ In the Old Testament, God had the entire nation pass through the Jordan at same spot. To cross over from their wanderings to the fulfilled promises of God, they had to pass through the water; are you following it now?
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2. This symbolism runs deep, but the waters have been murky for many of us. One of the reasons is that baptism carries several levels of meaning.

- 1) Literal meaning – Immerse – the church got away from immersion out of convenience or necessity for centuries.
 - 2) Figurative meaning, to be identified, John was publicly identifying those who had repented by immersing them. Likewise, Jesus commanded that His disciples be publicly identified with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through baptism. It was and is an identification with salvation, but it was never a communication of salvation.
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3. Confusion about Baptism.

- ✓ Baptism is not to be confused with salvation; the waters of Baptism are only for those who have already believed and been saved, Acts 10:44, 47. Somewhere the real meanings of baptism got confused and people began to see the immersion in water as some form of cleansing. That's understandable, but definitely is incorrect.
- ✓ **Romans 6:4;** What is the water representative of? Death! Not life, not cleansing. It's what we are being saved from and not what's saving us. This Ark went into the waters of the Jordan that day ahead of the whole congregation. Jesus has done the same for us; He tasted death first for all of us who believe, **Hebrews 2:9.**
- ✓ For those who are in Christ the waters of sin and death have no effect on you; it's like its dry ground. Sin and death would have forever separated us from the promises of God, but Jesus has gone through death for us so that we can live. Now He asks us to publicly identify ourselves with what He did for us through water baptism.
- ✓ Those stones represented the Jewish people who couldn't save themselves, and they represent us for the same reason. Jesus was baptized or identified with us and took our place so that we could be rescued. We are those stones! God has chosen in His grace to save those who were stone dead in their trespasses and sins and pull us out of the water of sin and death that covered us from the dawn of time and has brought us into His promised land.

Now He's asking us to publicly sign off on that by undergoing this symbolic rite of baptism.
