

The Kingdom of God - Part 4

In Jesus day there was no subject more important than entrance into the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist had prepared the people to accept the Messiah and His Kingdom by preaching to them a Gospel accompanied by a command of baptism of repentance. John succeeded in his mission causing the people to accept Jesus when he began teaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and commanding baptism. **Mt 4:17; Mk 1:14-15; Jn 3:22-30; Jn 4:1-2; Jn 10:39-42**

One night a Pharisees named Nicodemus came to Jesus and was told that he must be born again of spirit and water to enter the kingdom of God. It amazed Jesus that this leader and teacher in Israel did not understand what Jesus was talking about. How could Nicodemus be familiar with the work of John and Jesus and not understand? They had both taught that the kingdom of heaven was at hand and commanded baptism of any who truly believed their message.

Nicodemus obviously had not submitted to John's or Jesus' baptism hence his ignorance of what being born of water and spirit meant. Jesus left no doubt that you could no more enter God's kingdom without water than you could without spirit. Both were necessary in being born again. What the water referred to should have been clear to anyone who came to hear John or Jesus as they taught and baptized along the banks of the Jordan River. **Jn 3:1-12**

Quincy church of Christ
25 A Street NE
PO Box 624
Quincy, WA 98848
509 787-4738

www.quincychurchofchrist.com

Article by: Nick Nelson

After Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead he came to His Apostles and told them to continue to preach the Gospel message. Only now the message would be complete. Jesus had come and died for the sins of the people. Jesus taught His Apostles how to identify those who were entering God's kingdom and being saved. He said those who believe the Gospel and obey the command of baptism would be saved. He taught them that in making true disciples they must baptize the believers. No one could call themselves a true believer if they rejected baptism. **Mk 16:14-16; Mt 28:16-20**

Jesus also taught as did John that only repentant believers were to be baptized, thus eliminating baptizing infants that have neither repented nor believed. After His resurrection Jesus told His Apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the out pouring of the power of God at which time they were to teach repentance for the remission of sins. Of course, He was talking about the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. **Lk 24:45-49; Mk 1:4**. After waiting in the city Peter taught those who believed in Jesus that they must repent and be baptized for the remission of sins, just as Jesus had instructed him. **Acts 2:36-38; Mt 28:18; Mk 16:16; Lk 24:47**

Out of the crowd that Peter taught only 3,000 people truly believed and demonstrated their acceptance of what Peter preached by being baptized. Therefore on that day only 3,000 were forgiven and added to the Kingdom of God. **Acts 2:41; Jn 3:5**

Did you receive the Gospel of the Kingdom by being baptized for the remission of sins when you first believed?