

BAPTISM

Children's Lesson by Mrs. Stacy Asbill
Mahomet, Illinois, June 14, 2009

Good morning, children. I would like us to start by singing the song *I'm a New Creation*.

*I'm a new creation
I'm a brand new man
Old things have passed away
I've been born again.
More than a conqueror
That's what I am
I'm a new creation
I'm a brand new man*

Praise the Lord. I am excited to have this privilege to share with you. A couple weeks ago I was asking the Lord what He wanted me to share with you. Sometimes I have lots of thoughts. Do you have lots of thoughts and ideas going through your head? Sometimes it is very good to have lots of ideas. But when I went to the Lord and asked Him what was

the most important thing He wanted me to share with you, He spoke to me about water baptism.

How many of you have not been water baptized? Raise your hand, please. Well, then, today I have something to talk about that you are going to find very interesting. How many of you have been baptized in water? Then, this is going to be a refresher and I believe the Lord will speak something to you, too, because He sure did to me when I was looking into the Word about water baptism.

Whenever we talk about certain principles of faith, certain things that we believe, there is a picture that God gives us in the Bible which shows us every stage of our walk with the Lord. Do you know what that picture is?

Anna: The tabernacle.

That's right. It is the tabernacle. So, we are going to talk a little bit about the

tabernacle and I am going to need some help. What is the first thing we draw when we draw the tabernacle?

Caroline: The Outer Court.

Very good. Would you draw it for us? Also, let us draw a smaller rectangle inside the bigger rectangle. This is the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Who knows what the first piece of furniture in the tabernacle is?

Caleb: The Brazen Altar.

Very good. What does the Brazen Altar represent?

Josiah: Death to sin.

That's right, it represents the cross or death to sin. Now, when the priest went into the tabernacle, what would he do at the Brazen Altar?

Isaac: He killed the animal.

Yes, the sacrifice was given, the blood was shed. Why was the blood shed?

Josiah: Because it symbolizes Jesus dying on the cross for us.

Yes, the blood was shed as an atonement for sin. What happens with us at the Brazen Altar as you and I journey in our life as a Christian? What is it that takes place in our life?

Anna: We ask Jesus into our heart.

If you have asked Jesus into your heart, raise your hands. Very good, we have all gone to the Brazen Altar and asked Jesus

into our heart. The Blood that Jesus shed for us was given that we might be free from death and sin. We open up our hearts at the Brazen Altar and say, "Jesus, we want You to come in and cleanse us from all sin." Did He do that for you when you asked Him? Did He come into your heart? Yes, He did! Absolutely! Jesus gave His life for us that we could be saved. It was a free gift. Did any of you have to pay for it? Did Jesus say,

"Give Me \$10.00 and you can have it."? No! He gave it to us freely. Don't you think that was the best gift you have ever received? Jesus giving His life for you? Absolutely!

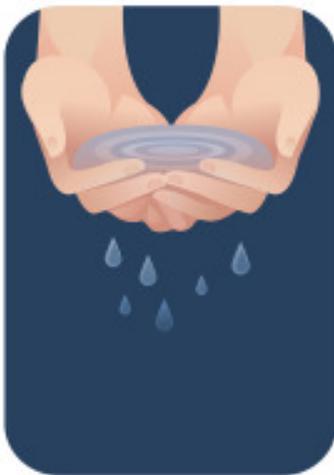
So, that is where we are with the Brazen Altar. Now, what is the next piece of furniture in the Tabernacle?

Anna: Brazen Laver.

Okay, can you draw that for us? Very good. At the Brazen Altar the priest has come and the sacrifice has been made. What happens when he comes to the Brazen Laver?

Rebecca: He washes his hands.

That's right, he washes his hands. The Brazen Laver represents baptism and death to self. This is where we enter into a covenant with Jesus. Who can draw a three-dimensional box for me? Isaiah. All right, now we have our three-dimen-



sional box. Baptism has what is called three dimensions. Who knows what the first dimension of baptism is?

Isaac: Natural.

That's right, and the natural is water baptism. What is the second dimension of baptism?

Anna: The Holy Spirit.

It is spiritual, the baptism into the Holy Spirit. And what is the third baptism?

Josiah: Fullness.

Fullness, which is the baptism into Christ. Today, we are going to talk about the first dimension, which is water baptism.

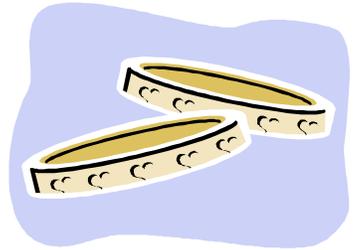
Water baptism also has three stages to it. Number 1: *sanctification*. What does that mean? It is a big word, isn't it? *Sanctification* basically means the *washing away of the stains of sin*. The sacrifice was made, the blood is on the priest's hands, he washes his hands and the stains are removed. That is sanctification. The scripture that came to me is written in II Corinthians 5:17, ***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old***

things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. The stains of sin are washed away.

Number 2:

consecration.

That's another big word, isn't it? Do we know what *consecration*



means? *Consecration is when you take something that has been cleansed and you put it aside to be used for one specific thing only.* When they made the pieces for the Tabernacle, they weren't supposed to use them for a king's feast, were they? No, they were specifically made for the Tabernacle; they were to be used for God. Part of baptism is that we are saying that we want to be used only for the Lord. That is *consecration*.

Number 3: *baptism*. *Baptism is when you covenant with God.* What does covenant mean?

Rachel: A promise.

Yes, it is a promise. You are making a promise to God that your life belongs completely to Him. You are saying that every right that you have to be angry, every right that you have to have a bad attitude, every right that you consider yours, you are giving to Jesus.

We talked about the Brazen Altar. What happened there? Jesus gave us a free gift. Salvation is free. What happens at baptism? Is baptism free? No. It costs you something, because you are giving a gift. At the Brazen Altar Jesus gave us a gift, but at the Brazen Laver, we are



giving back to Jesus. He gave His life for us and here we are giving our life to Him. At the Brazen Altar Jesus becomes our Savior; He saves us. At the Brazen Laver we make Jesus the Lord of our life, the King of our life. We are giving up our own life so that He would be our King.

Baptism is like a marriage ceremony. Who likes weddings? What happens at a wedding? You have a bride and you have a groom and they get married. They make promises; they make vows to each other. Have you ever been to a wedding where the groom made vows to the bride and the bride didn't say anything back? No! A marriage is a promise between two people, they both make it. That is what happens with us in water baptism: we are making an agreement with Jesus and He is making an agreement with us. We are making a covenant. This is what happens when you desire to be baptized in water.

If you have your Bible, let's turn to Matthew 3:13 and let's read a story about baptism. Who is the first

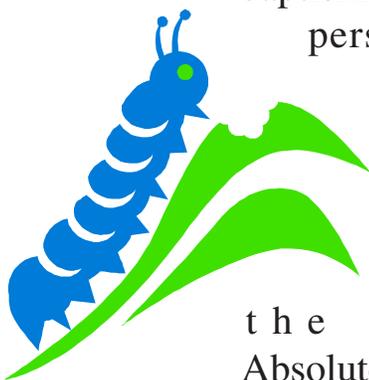
person in the Bible that you think about when you think about baptism?

Isaiah: John the Baptist.

Absolutely. Well, we are

going to read a little story about him. Matthew 3:13, *Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.* ¹⁴*But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?* Now, can you imagine the situation? John recognized that Jesus was the Messiah. He is baptizing the people saying, "Repent, prepare ye the way for the Lord." And here comes Jesus, the One Whom he has been preaching about and Jesus says, "Baptize Me." John says, "Are You kidding? I should be baptized by You!" But Jesus *answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness* (verse 15). Jesus is saying, "It is necessary for me to do this. *Then he suffered him.* ¹⁶*And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:* ¹⁷*And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* Jesus was baptized to show us the way we need to follow.

So, I was thinking about why it is so important for us to follow this pattern, and a picture came to me. The Bible uses the word *transformed* when it talks about us coming from the state of being a sinner to becoming a son of God, an overcomer. *Transformed* in Greek means *metamorphoo*. Does anybody know what



that sounds like?

Isaac: Metamorphosis.

Yes, metamorphosis. What animal or a creature do you think of when you think of metamorphosis?

Chris: A caterpillar.

A caterpillar! Chris, could you come up and draw a caterpillar for me? We see caterpillars and worms out here on the farm, don't we? What happens to a caterpillar or a worm? First of all, are they pretty? Does anybody think a caterpillar is really pretty? No! They are not bad, they are okay, but compared to a butterfly, what would you rather have?

Child: A butterfly.

So, I'm thinking that when we first start out our walk with Jesus, it's kind of like we are a caterpillar. Now, what happens to the caterpillar? What does he become when he is totally transformed?

Chloe: A butterfly.

A butterfly. Chloe, would you come and draw it for me? You know, the caterpillar doesn't just become a butterfly overnight, does he? How does that happen?

Isaac: It takes a long process.

Yes, it does. He has to go from a caterpillar to a cocoon. Isaac, can you draw a cocoon for me? Very good. Have you ever seen a cocoon? Yes. Can the cater-

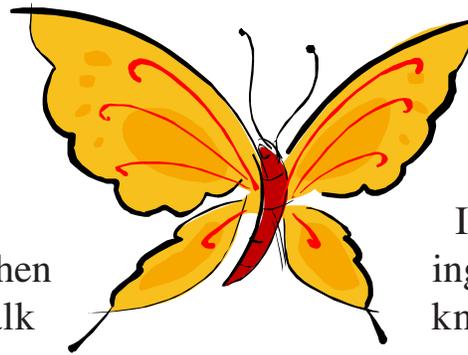
pillar become a butterfly without going through the cocoon? No. There are stages that it takes to become a butterfly. And so the Lord was showing me even in water baptism when Jesus said that it needed to be done to fulfill the righteousness that this is a part of becoming a son of God. It's like becoming a butterfly; it's something to fulfill the process of becoming like Jesus. Do you understand that? Does it make sense to you?

This whole week I've been thinking about water baptism and reading about it and one day we were eating and one of my children said to me, "You know, Mom, I'm thinking about becoming water baptized." It almost knocked me over, because none of my children have ever

come and said that to me. And it was at the same time that I was thinking about it! So they started to ask questions. One of the questions was, "Why do we do it in public? Why do we have to be baptized in front of a bunch of people?" Does anybody know why that is?

Mrs. Shaffer: It's a public announcement that you are a follower of Jesus.

Absolutely. I was thinking about that. Imagine you were given a million dollars, would you not say anything to anybody or would you be so blessed by what you were given that you would tell ev-



everybody, "You're not going to believe what was given to me!" That's what it is like with water baptism. You are so excited about what God has done for you and what He is doing in your life that you want people to witness what He is doing. We also talked about water baptism being like a marriage ceremony and that is always public. In addition to that, we are covenanting with the Body of Christ that we are following Jesus.

Another question was: why do we have to say something when we are baptized? It's not really that you have to say something, but it's testifying of what Jesus is to you, what He has done to your life. It's not that you have to say a certain thing and then you can be baptized. It's just sharing from your heart what Jesus has done for you.

These were the questions that we discussed in our home. Does anybody here have any other questions that we haven't talked about but you would like to know the answer to? I have to say I was a little bit intimidated at the thought of sharing on water baptism, but when you get into the Word, it is so much what our walk with Jesus is - it's about overcoming; it's about laying down our lives.

Another thought that I want to give

you is that if you desire to be baptized in water, talk with your parents. Maybe you didn't understand everything we shared today and they can explain it more and answer your questions.

Question from Mrs. Shaffer on the difference between baptism in some churches versus baptism in our church.

There are a lot of baptisms in the churches. The Catholic Church has baptism; a lot of other churches have baptism. For some of them it is part of becoming a member of their church. That is totally different than what we are talking about today. You children belong to our church and you are not water baptized. The baptism is unto Jesus, it's not to a church or organization.

Our memory verse for this week is Romans 6:3-4, ***Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*** I know that this is a little bit long, but it is so important, because this is what we believe. That's why it's so important to we could memorize it and hide it in our heart. May the Lord bless you all. Amen.

