

*Made New*

# TURNING POINT

Matt VanCleave  
September 8, 2019

## **GROUP ICE BREAKER**

If you've been baptized share your baptism story and if not share a story of a spiritually significant milestone.

## **REVIEW AND SHARE ABOUT LAST WEEK NEXT STEPS**

Which Next Step did you commit to last week and how did it go? If you did commit but weren't successful or didn't commit what hindered you?

- I will turn from negative behavioral patterns.
- I will stop saying "Tomorrow" where God is asking me to say, "Today."
- I will do whatever I need to do to change.
- I will play my part in the partnership God wants to have with me at work.
- I will get intentional about following Jesus my finances.
- I will take a step of obedience and get baptized.

## **THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP**

Baptism is a public expression of someone who has put their trust in Jesus and has become his follower. Jesus himself took this public step of faith, and as an example for us to follow. Jesus was baptized for four reasons, to mark a turning point in his life, as a public expression of his commitment to God, as a demonstration of humility, and as a picture of his ultimate mission which was his death, burial, and resurrection. Some people haven't been baptized because they are in the early stages of searching out the Lord, God is pleased that you are choosing not to take this step prematurely. However, some people have made a commitment to God and have given their heart to him, but have put off baptism. No matter what may be holding you back; depression, divorce, or another failure or disappointment--God wants to free you from it. So don't put it off, because like Jesus, there comes a turning point for us all where we recognize our need for a change in purpose.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Which of the four reasons (to mark a turning point in his life, as a public expression of his commitment to God, as a demonstration of humility, and as a picture of his ultimate mission which was his death, burial, and resurrection) for baptism pointed out during this message speak most to you and why?
2. Matt stated that the walk from Galilee to the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized by John was a 60 mile journey. Does this change your perception of baptism and its importance? If so how? If not why?

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3. In your experience what is the greatest hindrance for taking the step of baptism?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-2. Matt highlighted three ways that the crossing of the Red Sea parallels the significance of baptism:
  - a. They were going to have to die to their old identity.
  - b. They were going to have to die to their fears.
  - c. They were going to have to die to an old way of life.

Do you identify and/or struggle with one or more of these “deaths” if so which? Can you explain how it has showed up in your life recently?

5. The sermon also touched on ways that the new life the Israelites entered correlates with the new life we have following baptism:
  - d. They stepped into a new reality.
  - e. They went from slaves to freedom.
  - f. They went from mortal danger to safety in the hands of God.
  - g. They went from living like everyone else to a new way to live that would change the world.
  - h. They went from being terrified to dancing with joy.

Do any of these “freedoms” resonate with you? Do any speak to a transition you experienced in your relationship with Jesus?

## **NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)**

- I will contact the Blue Oaks office about getting my questions answered.
- I will stop putting this off and get baptized at our next baptism Sunday.
- I will encourage those I love or am in relationship with to consider taking this step.

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

- Matthew 3:13-14
- Luke 5:32
- Acts 3:19
- Matthew 3:16-17
- 1 John 5:3
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-2
- Exodus 13:21
- Exodus 14:8-16
- Exodus 15:2
- Exodus 1:15-16
- Romans 6:4