

Baptism of the Lord - 2026

"Have you found Jesus?"

A drunk stumble across a Pentecostal Baptismal service on Sunday afternoon down by the river. He proceeds to walk down into the water and stand next to the Preacher. The minister turns and notices the old drunk and says, "Mister, are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk looks back and says, "Yes, Preacher. I sure am." The minister then dunks the fellow under the water and pulls him right back up. "Have you found Jesus?" the preacher asked. "No, I didn't!" said the drunk. The preacher then dunks him under for quite a bit longer, brings him up and says, "Now, brother, have you found Jesus?" "No, I did not, Reverend." The preacher in disgust holds the man under for at least 30 seconds this time, brings him out of the water and says in a harsh tone, "My God, have you found Jesus yet?" The old drunk wipes his eyes and says to the preacher... **"Are you sure this is where he fell in?"**

A most important date:

An old gentleman walked into a fashionable florist shop. "I want a beautiful corsage," he said, "not a big one, but just about the prettiest one you can make." He smiled broadly, "it's for my granddaughter and she is having her first date tomorrow." The florist was all curious. "How old is the young lady?" he asked, eyeing his flowers speculatively. "Two weeks," replied the grandfather. The florist turned in utter amazement. "Did you say, a date... a corsage...two weeks old?" "Precisely," said the old gentlemen. "And I want the corsage that's exactly right. She'll never have more important date than she has tomorrow. My little granddaughter will be baptized." (Frank Michalic in *Tonic for the Heart*; quoted by Fr. Botelho).

God's Press Conference:

When likable Lou Holtz was announced as the new head football coach at the University of Notre Dame, he was touted as one who would restore the school's football program to its tradition of excellence. Whenever a new leader appears on the scene, whether it is the new coach of a team or the new president of a corporation, a press conference is usually held to proclaim that leader's qualifications and potential. Such press conferences usually create some excitement about the leader's identity and arouse our expectations with glowing promises about what this leader will accomplish. Today's event of our Lord's baptism is something like this. It's as if God Himself called a press conference to reveal His Son Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and to give us a preview of what His mission would accomplish (Albert Cylwicki in *His Word Resounds*).

Why did Jesus have to be baptized?

What was the meaning of it? One of the easiest and best explanations I ever heard had to do with washing your hands. When you have one dirty hand you have a problem. If this hand was filthy dirty, I wouldn't want to eat with it - and you wouldn't want me to touch you with it. I wouldn't want to brush my teeth or change my clothes with it. If it was time for dinner I can just hear Chris (my wife) saying: "GO WASH!" So you go get some water and soap and look what happens. Even though one hand is clean and only one is dirty, you wash both. You need the clean hand to wash the dirty one. As you use the soap, the dirt from the dirty hand goes onto the clean hand. But when you rinse them off, both are clean.

It's like that old saying "one hand washes the other". Now both are clean. God has two kinds of children. He has us, who are sinners, who do things that hurt others and ourselves. And he has Jesus, his holy Son, who is like the clean hand. God sees the sin of the world and says - "you must be washed clean". The clean Son of God joins the dirty children of God and together they are cleaned - like one hand washing the other.

But water alone will not take away sin. So Jesus came to be baptized too. He sanctifies the waters of baptism. He had no sin, but he shared in the sin of the rest of us. He let us put our dirt on Him. Then he died on the cross and rinsed all the dirt away. Think of your baptism each time you use one hand to wash the other. Remember that your baptism is still a part of your life.

Mother Teresa

Roy Lloyd, a Lutheran minister, once interviewed Mother Teresa. He said that one of his questions and one OF her answers stands out in his mind as "a bright sun burning in my mind." He asked her, "What's the biggest problem in the world today?" And she answered, without hesitation, "The biggest problem in the world today is that we draw the circle of our family too small. We need to draw it larger every day."

With all that is evil and wrong in this world today it would be easy to answer that question with a hundred different events. That's what makes Mother Teresa's response so jolting. She is saying that the problem is not so much with the world as it is with us. We need to see more people as our neighbor than we are currently doing.

I see Jesus doing this in his baptism. In his baptism he included us in his righteousness. He identified with humanity, with our need to be cleansed, and our need to be made pure. If you have been baptized you have been drawn, by Jesus' baptism, into the circle of God's family. (by Brett Blair, www.eSermons.com)