

## Check the Water - Sermon

### 1 Corinthians 10:1-6

**Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup> and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;**

**<sup>3</sup> And did all eat the same spiritual meat; <sup>4</sup> and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.**

**<sup>5</sup> But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.**

**<sup>6</sup> Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.**

1. A message to believers who are on their way to the Promised Land, but currently passing through the wilderness. Don't be ignorant, you need to be aware and understand how people before you came out and what they went through.
  - a. Saints before us were led by the Holy Spirit
  - b. All were passed through the sea.
2. Everybody back then and everybody today have to go through this process of baptism. Part of the journey, what God wants you to go through in order to make it to your best season.
3. All ate the same spiritual food we eat today; all had received the word that we receive today.
4. All of them had a measure of the Holy Spirit in their lives and all of them had Christ. Because you can't begin this journey without receiving Christ.
  - a. The process has not changed. The steps are still the same. Dealing with the same God.
  - b. His requirements for a blessing have not changed.
  - c. Moses and the children of Israel had to follow these steps.
  - d. Joshua, David, prophets, disciples followed these steps, even Jesus himself was baptized to show us that you can't make it into the Promised Land without a good baptism.
  - e. My momma, your momma, everybody before you and after you must follow the same path, that path includes baptism into Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
5. But many of them didn't please God even though they made it this far. They made it out of bondage in Egypt but never made it to where God really wanted them to be; instead God took them out while they were still in the wilderness.

- a. Even though you have experienced God, even though you have accepted Christ, even though you have received the good news of the gospel, you can still miss getting into the Promised Land. You can still not receive God's best.
6. Now these things happened to them, our fathers, saints before us so that we don't make the same mistakes they did.

Taking a bath. Steps to taking a good bath.

Back in the day, we didn't have showers, had to take a bath in a tub. Some folk didn't even have a tub, had tin tubs. Good bath is a process.

1. Need a willing participant. Gotta to want to take a bath. Kids don't like to take baths. Too busy playing. If I could as a kid, I would have preferred to not take a bath and keep on playing dirty. Taking a bath took time away from playing. Play all kinds of tricks trying to keep from getting in the water. Used to fake a bath. Because I didn't have a problem with dirt being on me...I was happy being dirty.
  - a. Wash up in the sink, rather than take a bath. Easier, quicker. Still got clean but couldn't get everything clean. Momma had to make me take a bath.
    - i. When you wash up in the sink, some parts get clean, but you still have some dirt on you. But I was happy, because I washed up and that was clean enough for me. Didn't want to have too much dirt on me, so I would clean up just enough so I could keep some dirt on me.
  - b. Saturday night, was always bath night.
    - i. We would complain about, fuss about it. Say we were better off without it. That's what kids do.
    - ii. You were going to get a bath anyway because Momma knew the bath would get you clean, fresh, and that there was some dirt and mess that was on you that needed to come off you.
2. Fill the tub with water. Must be enough water to submerge your body. When you get in, the water will rise.
3. Need a good cleaning agent in the water. Something that can help you to get clean. Momma used to get Mr. Bubble.
4. Take your clothes off before you get in.
5. Scrub yourself. Wash all over, get those hard to reach areas.
  - a. See as kids, we knew we had to take a bath, but when we got in the tub, we used to play in the water.
  - b. Hard to get clean if you just playing in the water.
  - c. If you in the water, if you in your tough situation, and you ain't really trying to get clean, then all you doing is just playing in the water when you should be trying to get clean.
  - d. True baptism is no play thing.

6. After awhile, you can see some stuff in the water that wasn't in the water before.
7. Clean the tub after you finish; don't leave your mess for other people to clean up.
8. Will have a fresh new feeling.

God is about to give Israel a bath. Necessary because they still smelled like Egypt, they were dirty. Something was on them that God needed to get off their back.

Exodus Chapter 14, Verse 15. The Hebrews are trapped by the sea and the first thing they do is start to cry and complain. They don't know where to go, nowhere to turn. Crying and complaining, what are we really complaining about? God tells them to stop all that crying and go forward.

- Forward....there was no place to go forward but in the water so God was saying stop crying "Children" and take your bath! Nothing new under the sun, same God, same procedure, it's time for some of us to go forward. You need a bath.

Exodus Chapter 14, Verse 27. Moses stretches himself. He knew there was some stuff in the tub that was still chasing him, still trying to get on him.

- When you take a bath, you should see the dirt that was on you, in the water. The water changes. When the bubbles go away, you should see dirt that came off you in the water. I was always in a hurry to get out of the tub because I didn't want the dirt that was just on me, which I can see in the water now, to get back on me.
- While you go through your bathing experience in here, be careful that some stuff you got off you, doesn't chase you into your next season. Oh, there is still some stuff out there that wants to follow you and get back on you. Still some bad folk that want to get next to you, still some old habits that don't want to get washed away, still some old sins and hatred that wants to cling to you. You may need to stretch yourself just a little....might take a little extra effort on your part to make sure that dumb stuff don't follow you over to the other side.
- What was chasing them that night was gone in the morning.
- Notice, Moses didn't get back in the tub to deal with what was trying to bring him back. He stayed where he was and dealt with them from the other side. If you made it to the other side out of that tub, why you gonna get back in that same dirty tub, with all that dirt and just get dirty all over again? He didn't get back in the water, because that water was dirty, he stayed on the high ground.
  - Once you come out and go up and see that you still have some things chasing you, still have some folks you got to deal with, don't go back down to their level, deal with them from on high.
  - Stay on the high ground, don't let someone talk you into going back into the mess.

Exodus Chapter 14, Verse 29. They get in the tub. Notice that the thing that was blocking them before, the thing that was in their way before, God had made a way for them to get through it, and now the thing that before was a problem, was now a wall of protection on their right and on their left. What you trying to say preacher?

- It might look like this tub is blocking you right now. In the way of keeping you from where you really want to be. God will make a way so you can get through this; and when you get out of this thing, and you remember how you made it through, this experience should be a wall to protect you from ever getting off course and off track again.
- Some things I've been through, have protected me and kept me from going off track and continuing to move forward. Some things you done went through ought to protect you from ever going back into that stuff again.
- They made it through on dry land. They were making it through this easier. Still in the middle of the tub, but they were getting through as if it were dry land. No mud in sight. You would have thought there would it would have been muddy. Should have been muddy and messy. Mud should have been on their shoes, mud should have been on their clothes. But the Bible says when they were going through it was dry.
  - The three Hebrew boys were thrown in the fire, but when they came out, they didn't get burned, and they didn't even smell like they been in a fire. God wants you to know when you come out of this, people won't be able to tell. No evidence that you ever been through. You will be clean.
  - You know when God is in it, because it should be easier, blessing of the Lord maketh one rich and adds no sorrow.

Exodus Chapter 14, Verse 30. When they looked back, they could see what was chasing them still in the water, dead along the side of the tub.

- There was a ring around the tub.
- If you really doing this Christian thing right, if you're really walking with the Lord and trusting in Him, if you have really figured out how to do this Bible thing right, if you really have moved behind the cross. When you get to the other side of this, you should be able to see some stuff in the water. There should be a ring around the tub.
- When you do this thing right, there should be a ring. When I take a bath, and scrub, and don't play in the tub, dirt would be in the water, you could see it. I wanted to hurry up and get out because I didn't want the dirt I just washed off to get back on me. I could always see a ring around it after I got out. You should be leaving some stuff behind in the tub.
  - Stuff that used to be on you should be in the water.
  - Things that were trying to keep you down.....in the water now
  - Old friends.....old enemies.....
  - That prison record you think will keep you down....
  - Worry, sleepless nights, guilt, pain, hurt, heart break, disappointment.....in the water



- Habits, cussing, hate, anger, unforgiveness, sins, relationships, old attitudes, old hang ups.....in the water.
- Problem is the church has been playing in the water and some things that I should be seeing in the water, I don't see no dirty rings. And if it ain't in the water that means it must still be on you. Worry, still on you, depression...still on you.
  - Don't you want to be clean? Fresh.
- God allowed them to see their past problems in the water, so they can see evidence and know, that that old season was over, and they could now start over again in a new season....fresh!
- That same God wants you to see the same thing today. He wants you to be fresh. Old things are passed away, behold, all things have become new. Leave this place fresh. When you do this thing right.....you'll see some stuff behind you in the water. Don't take that bad stuff and mess with you into your new season. I'm fresh.