**KINGDOM PHILOSOPHY**

**Text: Matthew 3:11**

* Mat 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**AIM:**

* At the end of this sermon, we should be able to answer the following questions:
* Is water baptism necessary?
* Can we omit it?
* What is meant by baptism?
* Would there be baptism of the Holy Spirit without going through water baptism?

**I. QUICK BIBLICAL REFERENCES ON BAPTISM**

* Act 8:36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, [here is] water. What hinders me from being baptized?”
* Mar 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
* Act 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
* Act 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added [to them].
* Act 8:14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,
* Act 8:15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.
* Act 8:16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
* Act 8:17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
* Act 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.
* 1Cr 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,
* 1Cr 1:15 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name.
* 1Cr 1:16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.
* 1Cr 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

**II. WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?**

* Mar 1:4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
* Baptism is this context meant you were publicly declaring you believed in a particular teacher and his philosophy.
* Our contemporary connotation of the word repentance doesn’t really convey the message of John.
* Mar 1:3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.‘
* Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.“
* It simply means to change your mind, to reverse your way of thinking and acting.
* When a person was baptized, he was signalling that he was changing his thinking and actions and aligning them with the views and life of the teacher he had committed himself to follow.
* Hence, he is called a disciple (follower), i.e. disciple of John, disciple of Jesus
* The Greek word we translate as disciple means “learner” or “pupil”.
* Disciples were personally trained by their masters in the master’s philosophy and belief systems, perhaps traveling with them as they learned to think and act like their masters.

**III. WHY WOULD JESUS BE BAPTIZED IN JOHN’S BAPTISM?**

* Mat 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
* Mat 3:2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
* He did this to demonstrate to the people of the world that his teaching was not independent of John’s.
* John was reluctant to act as teacher to the master.
* Jesus demonstrated to the world that He was aligned with the kingdom of heaven, he needed to be identified with it through baptism.
* He was publicly declaring that He belong to the school of the kingdom of heaven and He was fully integrated with the mind and ways of the kingdom.
* Students are transferred when a teacher can no longer teach.
* John 1:35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples.
* John 1:36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"
* John 1:37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
* John 1:38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?“
* Jesus has to be a part of John’s school in order to take over leadership of it.

**IV. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM**

* Is not the water or even the act of being baptized-it has to do with the transformation of your way of thinking and living.
* When you are baptize in the name of your master teacher, you are saying, you are choosing Him above every other available teacher or philosopher.
* You are going to be associated with Jesus, so that when people see you, they're going to know that you belong to Jesus.

**V. BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

* Is the consummation of identification with the King and His kingdom as well as a reception of the power of the heavenly kingdom.
* The Holy Spirit is the personification of the heavenly government.
* You are immersed in kingdom philosophy and lifestyle, and that IT HAS TOTAL INFLUENCE OVER YOUR THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS.
* Philosophos (Greek)-Philos which means “fond” or “beloved”and sophos which means “wise”
* Fondness for or a love of wise things.
* Disciples of kingdom philosophy are to fall in love with the mind and will of the King, so that His mind become theirs and their actions mirror His.
* Pro 23:7For as he thinks in his heart, so [is] he.
* His thoughts and ways become ours.
* The way to fully live out the life of the kingdom, therefore, is to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.
* Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
* Luke 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!“
* Luke 12:32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
* Mat 12:28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

**CHALLENGE:**

* Is water baptism necessary?
* Can we omit it?
* What is meant by baptism?
* Would there be baptism of the Holy Spirit without going through water baptism?

**CONCLUSION:**

* **Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**