



SERMON GUIDE

# UNDER WATER

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

## Introduction

## Key Points

## 1. Learn the Biblical Method of Baptism

## Notes



“up out of the water” (Mark 1:10, NIV). In the New Testament, every single person baptized was baptized by immersion, without exception.

**Follow Jesus' exact example by being baptized through complete immersion, just as He was.**

## 2. See the Spiritual Meaning of Baptism

Why does the method of baptism matter so much to God? You cannot separate the meaning from the method because the method is the message. Paul explains exactly what baptism represents: “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:4, NIV). Baptism demonstrates three important events in Jesus’ life that are mirrored in the life of the believer: death, burial, and resurrection. This is the Gospel in visible form. When you’re baptized by immersion, you’re preaching the Gospel without saying a word.

Being baptized in water is your first opportunity to proclaim the Gospel through your actions.

### 3. Know the Personal Motive of Baptism

Why should you be baptized if it's not required for salvation? Biblical baptism is always "believer's baptism"—faith comes first, then baptism follows. In the New Testament, belief and baptism always go together in that order, like love and marriage. Now, you should be baptized for three reasons: to publicly express your faith in Jesus, because Jesus commanded it, and because you love Him enough to obey. Jesus was baptized to identify with us; we should be baptized to identify with Him. If Jesus loved you enough to die on a cross for you, you should love Him enough to go under water for Him.

## Notes



# Under Water

*Sermon Single | Week 41 | Mark 1:9-11*

Demonstrate your love for Jesus through obedience by being baptized as soon as possible after you believe.

## Notes

## Key Takeaway

*Baptism isn't necessary for salvation, but it is absolutely necessary for obedience. When you follow Jesus' example through biblical baptism, you publicly declare your faith, visibly preach the Gospel, and take your first step of loving obedience to the One who gave everything for you.*

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# Under Water

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*Sermon Single | Week 41 | Mark 1:9-11*

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## Reflection Questions

1. If you've been baptized, was it after you genuinely believed in Jesus? If not, what's stopping you from taking this step of obedience now?

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2. Belief and baptism always go together, like "love and marriage." What does this pattern reveal about the importance of following through on your faith decisions with public action?

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3. Jesus was baptized to identify with us. In what specific ways can you identify more closely with Jesus in your daily life?

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