

SEPT 26<sup>TH</sup> 2004: BAPTISMAL SERVICE FAYE STEINE: MIRACLES SERIES 10  
MATTHEW 7:15-29

**As most of u know**.....following this book.....chapter 10

**The problem**...doing that...is that on a special Sunday-→baptismal  
The chances of the subject listed.....being appropriate.....seem fairly small

**And when I looked at the title** .....Deceptive Miracles & Miracle Workers..I thought  
HOW Am I going to preach baptism out of that

**But then I looked at the Bible reading from Matt 7:15-27 and realised**

That altho it does contain a warning about false prophets.....(& those in home....)

**Its really** about the fruit bearing...and obedience....God looks for from those...

**In fact**...corresponding passage...Luke 6...even more direct...the need 2B obedient  
It says in 6:46.....

It then follows it with this wonderful illustration.....of the man who builds...foundation  
**Being** like the person who comes to Jesus.....not just with words...but with obedience

**and** Baptism is principally a step of obedience.....and the outward sign....of inner fruit

**Jesus said**.....Follow me.....And He was baptised.....as a sign of full commitment

**He commanded His church**.....to first make disciples.....then baptise them

**At the end** of that first sermon....Peter preached....the people asked ?....Repent and be...

**And eversince then**.....the Holy Spirit has prompted believers .....often at huge risk  
To be baptised

**That's why Faye has requested baptism**:::::Not because anyone here had told her to  
But because the Holy Spirit.....and persisted until she said yes

**Will it make a difference in her life..??**

It sure will

There will be a need for her to stay on the path of obedience

But already she is building a solid foundation.....for a faith that will ever stand

**OF course obedience is so much more than baptism**

& it is true that baptism for a believer...is by no means the most import act of obedience

**there** are many Christians.....who have never.....

**BUT BIBLICALLY.....**seems little doubt to me.....that Baptism is an initial step of

**And of utmost** import to God the Father...Son...Spirit.....into whose name....

**ONE REASON FOR THIS IS**

**GOD DOESN'T WANT SECRET DISCIPLES**

**There are only two** that I find listed in the NT.....and they didn't stay secret for long

**One was Nicodemus.....**yet when Jesus was buried.....he assisted thus declared himself

**The other was Joseph of Arimathea.....who John says in 19:38.....**

**Jesus said in Matthew 10:32-33.....**

**Baptism by itself...does not prevent a believer from being a secret**

But it does initiate an open confession.....that the believer must then continue with

*(For you who have been baptised.....THE challenge today.....have u continued ..  
with that open confession of faith.....)*

*(In a story entitled....Better Than Gold.....Rev Gordon Moyes....Betty Cuthbert...p248  
Australian Stories For the Soul)*

**ANOTHER REASON**  
**BAPTISM TAKES THE WISHY WASHY ELEMENT OUT OF FOLLOWING**  
**JESUS**

**I was always heavily involved in Xtians things from a child.....**  
Family very church orientated

**I was baptised when I was 16.....**because I knew that the time had come...for me  
To make a stand for Jesus

**I believed in Him.....**but other than doing all the churchy things....  
I had never done anything.....really be called courageous .....for Jesus

**I was seen as an ok Christians.....**but I knew that I was in danger.....being wishy.....  
**THE main reason....to be a witness for Jesus**

*( Imagine a wedding.....The bride and the groom standing before the minister.....  
from p171 Aust Stories for the Heart )*

**Baptism is the Christian saying.....**I want to stand accountable....for the name I bear

**THE THIRD REASON FOR BAPTISM.....**  
**IS IDENTIFICATION WITH JESUS**

**When Jesus went down into the Jordan....**  
.to be baptised by John...evryone was surprised  
**In fact John said.....**But Jesus replied.....

**At that very moment I believe.....**Jesus removed any excuse.....for not being  
baptised

**He himself walked through the waters.....**and we follow His example

Through His death and resurrection.....He has given it meaning way beyond...was then  
But the act of total commitment.....is still the same

**Faye has been a Christians for many years**...At the age of 13 she publicly declared  
Yet the Holy Spirit has convinced her...that today she needs to identify herself...

**And she does it because she loves Jesus**

*(Caitlin red jumper.....)*

**Identification with Jesus**...Lord and Saviour.....Is much more than baptism  
The words.....What Would Jesus Do.....speak of an identification...touches  
All we do ...say.....think.....support

**But baptism is there.....in a very prominent place**

Part of the foundation of the Christ-like life.....that helps the believer to know who they  
are.....And to whom they belong...for ever.