

Ministry Begins with Identity

Mark 1:9-15

For the Christ follower, baptism is not at all about crossing some spiritual finish line, it is not an end unto itself. Rather, it is that runner stepping into the starting blocks and getting himself/herself into the _____.

Discussion 1. If you have been baptized, share one vivid memory from it. Did your baptism have an impact on the early part of your spiritual journey? If so, what was that impact?

Following Christ (and the accompanying ministry) necessarily begins with a _____ of our identity. Whatever identity we called “core” before, takes a back seat to the identity God confirms for us in Christ.

Discussion 2. What circumstances (or people or voices) most help you to feel God saying to you, “You are my child and with you I am well pleased?” Why is that important to us as Christians?

When my identity is found in things of this world, then there are any number of hardships and struggles that will push me over the edge. But when my identity is in _____, I have the perspective to endure anything this world can throw at me.

Discussion 3. Discuss why so much of the anxiety people face in the world today goes back to an identity issue? How does confirmation of your identity in Christ help you to rise above the anxiety?

The gospel message is never more compelling than when it comes through one truly tested by the hardships of this world. We have that one in Jesus. And the world has that one _____.

Discussion 4. Describe a “wilderness experience” or a painful season in your life that actually helped prepare you for more effective ministry. If you cannot think of such a circumstance in your life, then describe how God has used somebody else’s painful circumstances to help them minister to you.

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?