LYRICAL DEVOTIONAL · DAY 132

The Hidden Meaning of Baptism

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"Baptizing them into the Name
of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit."
- Mt 28:19

Sometimes a mystery defies understanding.
Yet even when we can't fully grasp it,
a single word can give us a glimpse into its meaning.

I'm speaking of the nature of our Triune God
and our relationship with Him.

This mystery is woven into the Great Commission-
carried by a single word we rush past,
a word not invisible to the eye
but invisible to our attention.

We fixate on the verbs-go and make disciples-
and assume the Commission is only about what we do.
But could it say something far deeper?

"Baptizing in the name?"

You just read the word,
but did you see it?
And if you did,
would it surprise you to learn
that the word you just read
is an inaccurate translation
of the original Greek?

You may not know this about Jesus:
Here He said "into," not "in."
The difference isn't stylistic-it's the point.

"In" is the word Jesus used for praying,
healing, or casting out demons in His Name-
acts done with His authority.

But "into" is different.
"In" is standing in water.
"Into" is being plunged beneath it.

That is what Jesus commanded:
to baptize into the Name
of the Father, Son, and Spirit.

We are dry sponges.
The Son lifts us.
The Spirit is the water we're placed into.
The Father sends both.

Baptism into the Name
is the public declaration of our new life
with the triune God.

In the first century,
baptism marked the end of one story
and the beginning of another.

Jesus was naming the reality
that now defines every disciple:
we are placed into the Father's care,
into the Son's Lordship,
into the Spirit's life.

The water doesn't create this.
Our triune God does.
Baptism reveals the union
accomplished when we believed.

A new identity.
A new allegiance.
A new life.

Where is God inviting me to live more fully
into the identity He already gave?

It reminds me that the triune God
placed me into His story.

Father, thank You for placing me
into the life of Your Son
and the presence of Your Spirit.

Help me live from that identity.

In Jesus' name, amen.