

Series "The King And His Kingdom"
"The King's Messenger"
Matthew 3:1-17
Study-5

John the Baptist is called "The Prophet of the Most High" - Luke 1:76-77

Jesus Eulogized John - Luke 7:28; among those born of women there is no one greater than John; (Only person filled with the Holy Spirit before birth)
Luke 1:15

All four Gospels record the ministry of John the Baptist. **Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-13; Luke 3:1-22; John 1:19-36**

Thought of our Passage: "Our Message Comes From God; We Must Live Out The Message In Humility And Obedience, Pointing To Jesus."

- 1. Verses 1-3 John's Message**
- 2. Verses 4-10 John's Courage**
- 3. Verses 11-12 John's Humility**
- 4. Verses 13-17 John's Obedience**

1. Verses 1-3 John's Message:

Matthew 3:1 Now in those days John the Baptist came,

Context: He left off with Jesus as a child, possibly 2-3 years old. Jesus was taken to Egypt and then returned from Egypt. **Matthew 2:23**

Matthew now jumps ahead 27-28 years in the account of the life of Jesus Christ. That makes the date about 26 AD. **Luke 3:23:** John the Baptist and Jesus at 30 years of age.

John the Baptist: Luke's Gospel gives the details of the birth of John **Luke 1:5-38; 57-80** Separated life from the world **Luke 1:15**

preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, The wilderness symbolized the spiritual condition of the people. The nation was spiritually barren;

Matthew 3:2 "Change Your Thinking and Your Ways!"

John Spoke Plainly About Sin: Repent - *"to change one's mind and act on that change, to turn around."* Change your direction, from sin to God's direction.

Warning: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Only in Matthew 42 times) Matthew's theme **"The King And His Kingdom"** **Daniel 2:44** (Kingdom of Heaven, Kingdom of God interchangeable)

Kingdom of heaven – "Ruling and reigning with Jesus Christ, when we repent and yield to Him." **Had Israel repented and placed faith in Jesus, they would have enjoyed His kingdom,** - Now His 2nd Coming.
Revelation 20:3

Matthew 3:3 Elijah – Matthew 11:1-14; 17:12; John 1:23

referred to by Isaiah the prophet, **Isaiah 40:3** by God His Word.
Isaiah 40:3-4

2. Verses 4-10 John's Courage:

Matthew 3:4 a garment of camel's hair, and a leather belt around his waist; This description of John is the same description of Elijah.
Malachi 4:5-6

Luke 1:16-17 makes clear John would come in the "**Spirit and Power of Elijah**"
garment of camel's hair 2 Kings 1:8

and his food was locusts or (grasshoppers) - loaded with Protein.
Leviticus 11:22-23

and wild honey. Carbohydrate. Natural sugar and water

Matthew 3:5 Estimated 200,000-500,000

Matthew 3:6 they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River,
The Jordan is Israel's source of water. John's baptism marked the beginning of Jesus ministry **Acts 1:21-22**

baptized - "to dip, or die, to submerge." Washings/Baptism was used for Gentiles that wanted to convert to Judaism. **Baptism of John** – It was a dedication baptism. **Baptized to symbolize death to the old life.**
Mark 1:4

baptism of repentance - not a "Baptism for repentance." This baptism I agree with the message; I have a need of cleansing.

as they confessed their sins. Sins were the heart! Being submerged in the water was the outward sign.

Matthew 3:7 many of the Pharisees - Separatists ("to separate" non-priests)

Sadducees – The liberals of Jesus' day. Priests; They did not believe in the supernatural, miracles, visions, resurrection. Did not believe in eternal life!
(he saw) he said to them, "You brood of vipers, "You baby snakes, you baby vipers"

who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ("Who tipped you off?")

wrath to come? Less than 40 years the destruction of Jerusalem, city, temple.

Matthew 3:8 "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; "The root determines the fruit!"

John teaches that with repentance there should be fruit

Matthew 3:9 'We have Abraham for our father'; Depending upon ethnic and spiritual privileges.

God is able to raise up children to Abraham. (Salvation is miraculous; as making a man out of a stone) spiritual children. **Ephesians 2:14-18; Revelation 7:9**

Abraham Referred To As A Rock: Isaiah 51:1

Matthew 3:10 "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees (The ax is always at the trunk of the tree of those warned and unrepentant)

John, being a good teacher, stressed the urgency of repentance!

therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (Root determines the fruit) People of Israel never allowed a tree to take up space

3. Verses 11-12 John's Humility:

Matthew 3:11 John's Baptism: "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, Outward sign to an inward work, preparation for the coming of Jesus. **(External)**

Jesus Mightier Than I: I am not fit to remove His sandals; lowliest of servants.

Spirit Baptism: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit **(Internal)**
Joel 2:28-29; Ezekiel 36:26-27 Day of Pentecost. **Acts 1:5, 8, 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:13**

Fire Baptism: and fire. Wheat and tares separated, judgment
Matthew 13:30; 28-42

Matthew 3:12 Messiah's Superior Judgment: "His winnowing fork like a pitchfork that was used to pick up the wheat which contained the heads of grain. **Proverbs 20:26**

thoroughly clear His threshing floor; built on a hill so that as they threw the grain up the wind with the fork, the chaff would blow away, and the grain would fall

John Was Not Afraid To Preach Judgment: but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." unquenchable - *asbestos, perpetual: not to be quenched, unquenchable. Ultimate judgment. Final judgment at the second coming. Revelation 20:12-15*

4. Verses 13-17 John's Obedience:

Matthew 3:13 Jesus travels about 100 miles to see John.

Matthew 3:14 But John tried to prevent Him, (Only Matthew records John's hesitation)

Matthew 3:15 Jesus answering said to him, (1st Recorded Words in Matthew's Gospel of Jesus)

fulfill all righteousness." God's plan: Son of God/Son of Man

Then he permitted Him. John's obedience was full and complete. All Gospels record, **Matthew 3:15-16; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:31-34**

Matthew 3:16 heavens were opened, - obedience to God results in the heavens opening.

The Trinity: Holy Spirit - Empowering: and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and lighting on Him, Anointing, of the Spirit.

God The Father - Approving: Matthew 3:17 behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, Jesus The Son - Submitting: in whom I am well-pleased." (Father Speaks 3 times Matthew 3:17; 17:5; John 12:28)

Application:

- 1. Message:** Repent And Turn From Our Way To God's Way. Repentance Demands Change.
- 2. Courage:** God's Truth Demands Courage To Confront Lip Service, In Order To Save Others From Future Judgment.
- 3. Humility:** We Are Simply Instruments Of God. Servants Who Are Available Extensions Of Jesus.
- 4. Obedience:** What The King Requests We Must Obey.