

Matthew 3

Jesus

I. Announcement of the King Enter John the Baptist

¹ In those days **John the Baptist** came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² and saying, "**Repent**, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand!"

- **In those days:** Fast forward **25+ yrs.** from Ch. 2...**Jesus now about 30**

Last announcement from God before 400 years of silence?

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I send My messenger and he will **prepare the way before Me.**

- Silence finally over...**John the Baptist** comes on the Scene
- **God's people ruled by Romans.** Morale is down...people looking for hope
 1. **Baptizing** in Jordan River
 2. **Preaching** in the Wilderness

Message: Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near

- **Repent** gr. *metanoia* lit. **to change your mind about sin**
- **Kingdom of God is near:** The King or Heaven is about to reveal Himself to the world...

³ For [John is the one] ... spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: '**Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.**'"

- **Preparing the way for Jesus:**
 1. Old Covenant preparing for New Covenant
 2. Old Wine preparing for New Wine
 3. Moses preparing for Joshua
 4. Bad News of Condemnation preparing for Good News of Forgiveness

Law of Death preparing the way for Grace

John 1:17 ...the law was given through Moses/**grace and truth** came through **Jesus Christ.**

- John preaches the OT Law of condemnation/death...

2 Corinthians 3:7 ...if the **ministry of death**, written and engraved on stones [law], was glorious... **8** how will the ministry of the Spirit [grace] not be more glorious?

John preaches bad news... Repent your not ready to meet God

- **Repent is the First word** in Johns Gospel
- Repent is the first word in...

1. Jesus' Gospel	Matthew 4:14
2. Preaching Ministry of the 12 Disciples	Mark 6:12
3. Instructions from Jesus to disciples after Resurrection	Luke 24:46-47
4. Exhortation in the first Christian Sermon	Acts 2:38
5. Mouth of the Apostle Paul through his ministry	Acts 26:19-20

Repent of your Sin. Hate/Turn/Stop

- **What is sin?** Whatever God says is...is sin.

1. Unbelief
2. Pride
3. Mocking
4. Unforgiveness/Bitterness
5. Selfishness
6. Sexual Sin
7. Gossip
8. Greed
9. Lying
10. Stealing etc. ... whatever God says in His Word. Paul says its obvious.

There is no entering the kingdom of heaven without leaving the kingdom of darkness. We must repent of sin or we cannot receive the blessings of salvation. [Surgeon]

- **John uses the Law to bulldoze a road for Grace:** Preparing hearts of people

**He is preparing the Way of the LORD...Making His paths straight
Johns only claim...** I will shine until the True Light is revealed

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to **bear witness of the Light**, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

- Roll out Red Carpet for Jesus...

John 5:32 There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. 33 **You** [asked] **John**, and he has borne witness to the truth ... 35 **He was the burning and shining lamp**, and you were willing for a time to **rejoice in his light**.

- **John's light would dim** as Jesus Light became brighter

John 3:30 [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease.

- **John:** Rock Star until the Rock of Salvation showed up...

4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

- **Rock Star Prophet of Judah...after 400 years of Silence**

1. Camel Hair Coat
2. Leather Lifting Belt
3. Locusts w/wild Honey Diet

John the Baptist: Rough and Simple like his message [Spurgeon]
Last of OT Prophets walks onto pages of the New Testament

Luke 1:15 [Prophecy to John's father Zacharias] For he will be **great in the sight of the Lord**, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of **Elijah**, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

- **Nazarite from birth:** No wine, no cutting of hair, no touching dead bodies, set-apart
- **Filled with Holy Spirit from birth**/Turn the people to the Lord

John will go before Jesus in power of Elijah...

2 Kings 1:7 [King of Israel sends for a prophet...] "What kind of man was it who came up to meet you ... 8 So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist." And he said, "**It is Elijah...**"

- **Strange man preparing the way of the Lord:** Using law of God to reveal sin thus...
 1. Turning the hearts of **fathers to their kids**
 2. Turning the hearts of the **disobedient** to desire **wisdom/justice**

To make ready a people prepared for the Lord
Preacher of the Law preparing the way for Grace

⁵Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁶and were baptized by him in the Jordan, **confessing their sins.**

Lit. **Baptizing "while they confessed their sins"**

- **Confessing:** Agreeing with God how they are living, acting, speaking is wrong
- **Baptized:** lit. to immerse, Under the water to death and up to life

Revival: People hungry to change. Religion not working. Expectation of coming Messiah
Multitude leaving the religious center Jerusalem coming to John in the Desert

- **Religious leaders check it out commotion...**

⁷ But when [John] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "**Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?** ⁸ Therefore **bear fruits worthy of repentance...**

Brood of Vipers? How to win friends and influence people
John was a God-pleaser not a people-pleaser

In the spirit of today's age, John's ministry would have been very different. He wouldn't start in the wilderness. He wouldn't dress funny. He wouldn't preach such a straightforward message. He would use marketing surveys and focus groups to hone his message and presentation. John wasn't motivated by the spirit of today's age, but by the Spirit of God. [Guzik]

[John is a] ... plainspoken, and he deals truthfully with his hearers, for he knows that converts made by flattery are but flattering converts that are of no real value.

- **As Jesus, John showed...**

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| 1. Compassion | Toward the genuine humility... |
| 2. Anger | Toward religious pretense/self-righteousness |

Hebrews 4:12 ...the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- **Intents of the Heart:** Motives of the Religious Leaders not right...

Mark 2:17 [Jesus] "Those who are [think they are...] well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the [self] righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

- **If you're for real then Bear Fruit:** Let's see the change...

9 ...and do not think to say to yourselves, '**We have Abraham** as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

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|-------------------|-------------|
| ▪ IQ | Meaningless |
| ▪ Genealogy | Meaningless |
| ▪ Social Status | Meaningless |
| ▪ Religious Group | Meaningless |
| ▪ Church Name | Meaningless |

God seeks genuine repentance leading to Personal Relationship with Christ

2 Corinthians 7:10 ...godly sorrow produces **repentance leading to salvation**, not to be regretted; but the **sorrow of the world produces death**.

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| ▪ Worldly Sorrow | Pretend show for God and others leading to death |
| ▪ Godly Sorrow | True repentance not to be regretted and retracted. Hate sin. |

Give me your heart...Make it real...or Just forget about it. Santana

- You can fool others but you can never fool God... and He is ready to judge

¹⁰ And even now the **ax is laid to the root of the trees**. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Judgment is Coming

No mere pruning and trimming work did John come to do; he was the handler of a sharp axe that was to fell every worthless tree. [Spurgeon]

- **John now speaking to all...**

11 I indeed baptize you with **water unto repentance**, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He** [Jesus] will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit and fire**.

- **Three Baptisms in Text:**

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| 1. Johns Baptism | [1] | Baptized w/ Water unto Repentance [not Salvation] |
| 2. Jesus Baptisms | [2] | Baptize with Holy Spirit AND Fire |
| Baptized with Holy Spirit | 1st coming | Salvation/Empowering |
| Baptized with Fire | 2nd coming | Judgment/Separation |

Malachi 3:2 But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver...

- **Three Baptisms in Text:**

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| 1. Water | Repentance |
| 2. Holy Spirit | Salvation |
| 3. Fire | Judgement |

- **Ax laid at the root/Baptism of with Fire:** Context of Judgment continues...

12 His **winnowing fan** is in His [Jesus] hand, and He will thoroughly **clean out** His threshing floor, and **gather His wheat** into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with **unquenchable fire**."

- **Winnowing fan separates wheat from chaff...**Believers from make-believers

Matthew 13:41 [Wheat/Tares] The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, **42** and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Luke 12:49 "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

John: Be Ready to meet the King of the Kingdom of Heaven

- **Jesus encouraged** listening to John **now...**

Matthew 11:11 ... among those born of women there has not risen one greater than **John the Baptist** ... **14** And if you are **willing to receive it**, he is **Elijah who is to come...**

- **Receive John's message** of repentance now and accept Jesus or...
- **Receive Elijah's message** when it's too late at Judgment

Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand

SUMMARY Announcement of the King

II. Baptism of the Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus **came from Galilee to John** at the Jordan to be **baptized by him**. ¹⁴ And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

- John's baptism was one acknowledging the need of repentance

Glaring Question: If Jesus was without sin why did He desire a baptism of Repentance?

- Was Jesus without sin? **Absolutely. Perfect Lamb of God**

1 Peter 2:21 ... Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² "Who **committed no sin**, Nor was deceit found in His mouth

2 Corinthians 5:21 [The Father] made Him who **knew no sin** to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Hebrews 4:15 ... [Jesus] was in all points tempted as we are, **yet without sin**.

1 John 3:5 ... in Him there is no sin.

- Since Jesus was without sin why did He desire a baptism of Repentance?

¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to [John], "Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to **fulfill all righteousness**." Then [John] allowed Him.

Why would Jesus be Baptized by John in a Baptism of Repentance?

- **To fulfill all righteousness** i.e. one step in Jesus mission that needed to happen
 1. **That Jesus might identify with us** as sinners through water baptism going under
 2. **That we might identify with Jesus** sinlessness through water baptism coming up

Why was Jesus Baptized? Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness by identifying completely with sinful humanity while living a completely sinless life. He fulfilled all righteousness in living that perfect life and being baptized into the death we should have died, taking our sins upon His own body He became sin for us. He identified with us through water baptism and we identify with him through water baptism, which does not save us but is an outward sign that we identify with Christ; i.e. believe in Him/accept Him as...Savior.

[Also] ... the Teacher must himself obey the laws, which he is about to lay down; and inasmuch as he is going to bid others to be baptized, he will set the example, and be himself baptized. [Spurgeon]

Jesus put Himself in the place of sinful man. John tried to prevent Him...

Then John humbled himself before Jesus and baptized Him

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, **Jesus** came up immediately from the water; and behold, the **heavens were opened to Him**, and He saw the **Spirit** of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a **voice came from heaven**, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- **Note:** Jesus did not confess sin as others when baptized.
- **Jesus saw...**
 1. Heavens opened **to Him**
 2. Holy Spirit of God descending from Heaven like a dove **on Him**
- **All heard:** Father speaking...

"This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"

Matthew 17:5b [Transfiguration] ... This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!

- **Three Persons of the Godhead** at Jesus Baptism
 1. **Son** Coming up from water
 2. **Spirit** Coming down from Heaven
 3. **Father** Speaking from Heaven
- **Father's Beloved Son...**

John 3:35 The Father **loves the Son**, and has given all things into His hand.

John 5:20 For the Father **loves the Son**, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

- **Jesus:** Beloved Glorified Son of the Father **before Creation...**

John 17:5 ... **O Father**, glorify Me together with Yourself, with **the glory which I had with You before the world was.**

John 17:24 [Let you people be with Me in Heaven] to behold My glory which You have given Me; for **You loved Me before the foundation of the world.**

God the Father and God the Son enjoyed this beautiful loving relationship before Creation
Yet, God the Father sacrificed His Son on our behalf to make us sons/daughters of God

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!**

John came with the bad news of the Law: Condemnation/Judgment. **Repent**
Jesus came with the Good News of Grace: Forgiveness/Everlasting Life. **Receive**

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, **but that the world through Him might be saved.**

SUMMARY Baptism of the King: This begins Jesus Public Ministry and three year walk to the cross