

The Journey

Series 04: Christ

Week 32: The Deliverer Presented

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We Have Been)

Questions for Review...

When did God first promise to send the Deliverer?

After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.

- ✓ Righteousness (and being right with God) was gone
- ✓ Their sin brought death (spiritual, physical, eternal) as payment
- ✓ God promised a Deliverer to pay the sin debt and make people right with God

Why wouldn't the Deliverer (Jesus) be born a sinner?

Because God (not a man) would be His father. The Deliverer could pay the sin debt on behalf of people and make them right with God (give them righteousness)

What does the name *Christ* mean in Greek?

God's Anointed, Chosen One (also Messiah, Deliverer)

What three special duties was Jesus anointed (set apart) and chosen for?

- God's FINAL Prophet (spoke how people are delivered from sin, Satan and death)
- God's FINAL Priest (make **the** way for man to be reconciled to God)
- God's FINAL King (to forever rule Israel and the world)

BIG Idea

Malachi 3:1 - I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way for me.

John the Baptizer -

John was God's messenger to Israel.

Matthew 3:1-6 (ESV) In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, **2** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." **3** For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.'"

4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, **6** and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Isaiah 40:3 - Prepare the way

Ancient Walking Billboard - Look weird, acted weird, yelled a lot.

John's Message - Repentance is not a promise to leave sin. Manipulating God so you don't have to face hell. False Repentance.

Example of False Repentance - **Jeremiah 34:8-16** - Israel under siege from Nebuchadnezzar. A lot of fear. So, King Zedekiah tries to manipulate God. Zed makes a covenant with the people of Judah that they should no longer enslave their fellow Jews (**Ex. 21:5 & Deut 15:13**). God and His law were very clear about slavery. Especially about enslaving their own kin and why and when they should set slaves free. So under Zed they set them free. But when they figured out that God was not impressed with them trying to manipulate him, they immediately enslaved all those people again. God sees their heart. He knows they are not turning from the sin of enslaving their own people in order to begin living lives of obedience to God. They just wanted something in return. God cannot be fooled or manipulated. He sees our hearts. So if it is not a promise to leave sin or outwardly showing/acting leaving sin. Then what is it?

Repentance

1. Attitude change about God -

-God is the only true God and they should worship and serve Him alone. They agree with God that he deserves first place in our lives.

2. Attitude change about ourselves -

-They realize we have sinned against God by disobeying His laws and they could not make themselves acceptable to Him.

3. Attitude change about our sin-

-They acknowledge that their sin is against God and that since He hates sin, they deserve His judgment

To repent means that they would have a complete change of mind and heart about God, about themselves, and about their sins. -Firm Foundations

God is Holy and hates sin. He cannot and will not simply overlook our sins. He will not accept the most sincere efforts to do the right thing. We deserve God's punishment.

John is poor. Jesus was poor. God in no way promises riches to those who repent and believe. If so our world would be overflowing with religious million and billionaires.

So, what was the response to this strong message from John? v. 5-6 Jews were coming from all over to hear this powerful message. People were confession, turning from their sins, and getting baptized.

Why baptized? They were showing that they had accepted John's message of repentance. They agreed with God that they deserved - DEATH for their sins and they were trusting in God to send a deliverer to come.

Remember: Baptism is an outward act of our inward repentance and belief in John's message. It cannot and does not save anyone. It is a symbol or public way of showing the world what is in the heart.

Question: Why baptism cannot make anyone acceptable to God? God said the payment for Sin is Death. (**Romans 6:23** - Wages)

John's message was strong, clear, and reaching many people.

As with any story we have our villains - these are the proud people who refuse to admit their sin. Thankfully, John didn't mince words.

Matthew 3:7-12 (ESV) But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. **9** And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. **10** Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12** His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

3 Prominent Religious Groups

Pharisees - They tried to please God by not only keeping the rules (the law) but protecting themselves from ever breaking any laws by creating

their own laws and interpretations. They cared only about their lifestyle being pleasing to God. (Food, clothing, actions,) Pride in what they Do

Sadducees - These were the temple priests and the wealthy class in Jewish society. Though they attended temple services they did not believe in many of the things that God had given in His word. They only read, followed, and believe the Torah (First 5). Very political. Wanted to please the Romans so that they could keep their positions of power and status. Pride in their Power

Scribes - These guys copied the original writings (scrolls) onto new scrolls. They were lawyers and teachers of the law because of their job they would interpret the meaning of God's words. Unfortunately, their meanings were often incorrect. They prided themselves on their scriptural knowledge. Because of all the copying, they were able to memorize large portions of the scriptures. Pride in their Knowledge

God opposes the proud. God hates pride.

Proverbs 8:13 - I hate pride

Proverbs 16:5 - Arrogance/pride is an abomination to the Lord

I Peter 5:5 - God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble

Matt. 23:12 - Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and the humble will be exalted.

James 4:6 - God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble

CS Lewis - "Make no mistake, pride is the greatest sin. It is the devil's most effective and destructive tool."

John was a mouthpiece of God speaking to these arrogant proud leaders. They were proud that they could claim they were descendants of Abraham.

-We are not accepted by God based on the faith of others.

-God judges people individually - No one enters heaven on the reputation of others. Or off the reputation of those they think may have influence with God.

-We are not accepted by God based on our family or religious affiliation.

-God's judgment will fall on all sinners

John is not trying to impress anyone or win a popularity poll. He speaks strongly but notice John's humility

John shows true humility

-John knew the deliverer was superior to him (mightier than I)

-John felt unworthy to even serve the deliverer (unworthy to undo sandals)

-John said that the deliverer would do something greater than just baptize people. (He would give the Holy Spirit to those who trust in Him)

-John said that the deliverer would separate the believers from the unbelievers. Believers and those who refuse to believe

God knows the truth and our hearts.

Prov. 21:2 - Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts.

I Samuel 16:7 - Man looks at the outward appearance the Lord looks at the heart.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 - The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the Lord search the heart and test the mind.

All this announcing, baptizing, and opposing the enemies of God. And then the deliverer appears.

Matthew 3:13-17 (ESV) Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” **15** But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **17** and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Jesus comes to John to be baptized. Everyone else was showing that they agreed with God about their sin and needed forgiveness. But did Jesus need forgiveness? NO - He was completely sinless and in complete harmony with God the Father. He was the promised Seed. The Coming Leader. Jesus was the Deliverer.

Jesus came to be baptized:

Jesus came to be baptized by John to show that He (God) accepted John as God’s own prophet. Jesus is showing that John’s message was indeed from God.

The Holy Spirit came to guide Jesus:

The Holy Spirit came to guide and empower Jesus for the word God had planned for Him to do. Yes, Jesus was fully God (almighty God) but when

he became also fully man He chose to depend on God the Spirit for the power to do God's will here on earth.

God displayed His pleasure with His son:

My beloved son, with whom I am well pleased

Jesus was the only human man who did everything that pleased God.

Jesus was without sin before His Father.

John 1:29-34 (ESV) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

We have seen it and talked about this. The blood of animals was not how people were redeemed in the Old Testament. Animal blood does not pay for sin.

Abel - Accepted by God because he believed God

Abraham - was accepted by God because he believed God

Jesus was the promised deliverer from Genesis 3:15 and God had sent Him to completely pay the full price for all our sins and to deliver those who put their trust in Him. The people in the Old Testament looked forward to a coming Deliverer. We look back and see that Jesus was that Deliverer who would die for our sins. Paying our penalty. Our wage.

John 1:30-34 (NLT) **30** He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.' **31** I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel."
32 Then John testified, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. **33** I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' **34** I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God

John grew up with Jesus but until this moment he did not know that Jesus was the Messiah. The Deliverer. But God made it abundantly clear.

Application (What We Need to Do)

We all have this Sin problem. The question is, what do we do with it? Ignore it? (Like a stain - it is still there no matter what). You either deal with your sin now before God or you will answer for your sin in the presence of a Holy God. Now you have a choice. An opportunity. Then you will have no excuses.

What do you do with your sin? Cover it up? I will try to outdo and cover over the stain of sin. The problem is, the stain of sin is still there. What can wash away my sins?

What will you do with your sin? Face it? Just between you and God. God knows your heart. God is your creator. It is time to turn to Him and surrender your life to him. Realize you can do nothing when it comes to your sin but turn from it and trust in Jesus. God is going to judge your sin and mine. Allow Jesus to pay that price for you. It is God's gift to you. Yes, you don't deserve what Jesus did to pay for your sin. None of us do.

Will you finally face your sin today? How will your respond?