

Matthew 3 – Are You A Repenter – 18 August 2019

Introduction –

Repentance is a powerful and integral part of the Christian's life.

STORY – “A woman had returned home from an evening of church services.....

....when she was startled by an intruder robbing her house of its valuables.

She yelled "Stop! Acts 2:38!" (Repent and be Baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.)

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar: "Why did you just stand there? All the

old lady did was yell a scripture at you."

"Scripture?!" replied the burglar. "She said she had an Ax and Two 38's."

Today we look at the ministry and life of John the Baptist.

We're going to give you 4 clues to know if you're a repentor.

Read Vs 1-2

1. John was descendant from the house of Levi.
2. 3 Gospel text
 - a. Mark says – “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of heaven is at hand, repent ye and believe the gospel.”
 - b. Luke has much more detail even.
3. Jesus' 1st public message was the same: repent
 - a. See Matt 4:17

- b. “Kingdom of Heaven” spoken of 32 times in Matthew
 - i. Synonymous with ‘Kingdom of God’ just didn’t want to offend Jewish hearers.

**Here’s the 1st clue to know if you’re a repenter:
Do you have an urgency about giving out and living out the gospel?**

1. There’s less time than you think to repent
2. It’s at hand – time is short.
3. Blindness is coming to the Jews (Rom 11:25)
4. We only have so many hours to repent before it’s too late.
5. Repentance should be immediate and complete
 - a. *STORY – “Professor Drummond once described a man going into one of our after meetings and saying he wanted to become a Christian. "Well, my friend, what is the trouble?" He doesn't like to tell. He is greatly agitated. Finally, he says, "The fact is, I have*

overdrawn my account" -- a polite way of saying he has been stealing. "Did you take your employer's money?" "Yes." "How much?" "I don't know. I have never kept account of it." "Well, you have an idea you stole \$1,500 last year?" "I am afraid it is that much." "Now, look here, sir, I don't believe in sudden work; don't steal more than a thousand dollars this next year, and the next year not more than five hundred, and in the course of the next few years you will get so that you won't steal any. If your employer catches you, tell him you are being converted; and you will get so that you won't steal any by and by."

b. *"My friends, the thing is a perfect farce! "Let him that stole, steal no more," that is what the Bible says."*

c. *Time is short, do it now!*

Read Vs 3

1. When prophecy begins to come to pass, your time to repent is short.
2. Read Luke 21:28

Read Vs 4

1. Real locust and honey

Read Vs 5-6

1. He preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
2. Confess = *speaking out the same word, speaking out a promise*

**Here's the 2nd clue to know if you're a repenter:
Do you, as needed open your mouth and speak
admission and repentance?**

1. There needs to be an opening of the mouth in confession
2. Read Romans 10:9-10
3. Sarcasm – I wish I had a biblical example of confession to show you. Oh wait, I do!!
 - a. Read Dan 9:4-19 – highlight this.
 - b. B/c God is good & consistent, when we confess, He does forgive.
4. There's something powerful in confessing our sins to each other also.
 - a. Read James 5:16

Read Vs 7

1. Pharisees & Sadducees – very different, but both depended on a system of works for right standing.
2. He started a movement in which ALL Jerusalem came out to him.

- a. In this scenario, some were sincere and some were not sincere.
- b. What's your Christian actions motivated by; the crowd or family or others? Or was it motivated from the Holy Spirit?
- c. "Who have warned you..." – was it the Holy Spirit's conviction or was it the mob mentality motivating you into action?
 - i. Read Act 19:32

Read Vs 8-10

**Here's the 3rd clue to know if you're a repentor:
Are you proving, thru a lifestyle of obedience to
Christ, that you've turned from sin?**

1. Look at vs 8 – Your fruit is the natural by-product of your life. It's not a one-time effort.
2. Look at vs 9
 - a. Your fruit doesn't come from someone else.

- b. Can't prove you're turning to a relationship with God by pointing to your family or nation or background
- c. Look at vs 10
 - i. Your fruit is either good or bad, no third option.
 - ii. No mere pruning will work, you're either producing good fruit or bad vs 10
 - 1. Read Jam 3:11-12

Just before Vs 11 – Luke 3:15 is inserted just before this verse. (Read Luke 3:15)

As the focus turns to John, he turns it right back to Jesus the Christ.

Read Vs 11-12 – The mighty Messiah that's coming will separate the repenters from the rest.

Here's the 4th clue to know if you're a repentor: Do you believe that there are only two choices, you're a repentor or you're a rebel to God.

1. Problem is there are 3 kinds of people
 - a. Them that is, them that ain't & them that think they is but ain't.
2. Parable of the Renters
 - a. If time allows read Matt 21:33-44
 - b. If time doesn't allow read Matt 21:43-44

Read Vs 13-15

1. Jesus was fulfilling the purification washing of the High Priest.
2. He didn't bring a new system; He completely accomplished the current system of the Law.
 - a. Read Matt 5:17
3. **Israel knew what to repent of b/c of God's perfect Law and that wasn't changing.**

Read Vs 16-17

1. God the Father puts His stamp of proof on the man Jesus.
2. This showed Him to be the perfect representation of the One following the Law in perfect righteousness.

Conclusion –

How to know if you're a repentor

1. Do you have an urgency about giving out and living out the gospel? There's less time than you think to repent
2. Do you, as needed, open your mouth and speak admission and repentance?
3. Are you proving thru a lifestyle of obedience to Christ, that you've turned from sin?
4. Do you believe that there are only 2 choices, you're a repentor or a rebel to God?