

I. John’s general cry - Repent for the Kingdom is here (Matthew 3:1-6)

A. His unfading message (1-2) “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

B. His prophetic calling (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.””

C. His unorthodox appearance (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.”

D. His magnetic anointing (5-6) - “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.”

II. John’s confrontational fire - Blasting the religious leaders (Matthew 3:7-12)

A. Words of wisdom (7-9) - “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.”

B. Words of witness (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.”

C. Words of warnings (10, 12) - “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...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.”

III. John’s precise revelation - Behold the Lamb of God (John 1:29-36)

A. An instant word of knowledge (29) - “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

B. A humble awareness of purpose (30-31) - “This is He of whom I said, After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me. 31 I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.”

C. A supernatural confirmation of prophecy (32-34) - “And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. 33 I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”