

John the Baptist, Week One. 1/3/2021

“Repent and Prepare” FBCLA

Matthew 3:1-6 Dr. Scott T. Arnold.

Introduction: *“Preparing for 2021, Concern & Hope”*

What might we repent of?

¹ In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

*“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”*

⁴ John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. (Matthew 3:1-6 NIV)

I. John the Baptist and His urgent message (3:1-3)

A. John was an Outlier Preaching in the wilderness (1). ¹ *In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea*

B. Repenting for God’s Kingdom (2) ² *and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”*

C. John the Baptist was spoken of by Isaiah (3) ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: *“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”*

II. The Repentance of Judea and Jerusalem (3:4-6).

A. John the Baptist was a Purist. (4) ⁴ *John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.*

B. People were moved by His message. (5) ⁵ *People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.*

C. People confessed their sins and were baptized (6) ⁶ *Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River..*

Conclusion: John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, we are called to prepare the way for God’s work in 2021. We are called to repent and turn to God in the midst of trials and troubled time. We are called to prepare the way for people to prepare for God’s Kingdom, for the second coming of Jesus, for the ministry of reconciliation and new life.

Questions:

1. What would you like to see change in 2021?
2. What are 3 things that you believe you should improve on in your spiritual life / your relationship with God?
3. What are 3 things that you believe you should improve on in your personal life and in relationship with others?
4. Is it possible to change without confession and repentance?
5. Why was the message of John the Baptist so persuasive? How is the news of preparing for God’s Kingdom today as important as it was then?