

GETTING READY FOR GOD TO SHOW UP

Pastor Chad Gilligan | August 14, 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

Matthew 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea

Matthew 3:4 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.

2 Kings 1:7-8 The king asked them, "What kind of man was it who came to meet you and told you this?" 8 They replied, "He had a garment of hair and had a leather belt around his waist." The king said, "That was Elijah the Tishbite."

Matthew 3:5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

Matthew 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.'"

Malachi 4:5-6 "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

II. GETTING READY FOR GOD TO SHOW UP

Matthew 3:2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

1. *Expectation*

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Matthew 6:10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

A. Are you expecting God to be active in your life?

B. If the Kingdom of Heaven is here, why are things still a mess?

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

C. Now and Not Yet

Matthew 3:2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

2. Repentance

Matthew 3:6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

A. Elements of Repentance

Luke 3:10 “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

- **Repentance is teachable.**

Luke 3:11 John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

Luke 3:12-13 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Luke 3:14 Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

- **Repentance does not look out for self.**

Matthew 3:7-9 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

- **Repentance does not rely on self.**

- **Repentance is radical transformation.**

Matthew 3:10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 3:12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

- **Repentance saves us from wrath.**
- **Repentance makes room in our lives for Jesus.**

Matthew 3:11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

3. Humility

Matthew 3:11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

A. Humbly expect that God will empower you.

B. Humbly expect that God will refine you.

John 3:22-24 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. ²³ Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. ²⁴ (This was before John was put in prison.)

John 3:25-26 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. ²⁶ They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him.”

John 3:27 To this John replied, “A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.’ ²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.

John 3:30 He must become greater; I must become less.”

- **He must increase. I must decrease.**
- **If you want God to show up, you might have to get out of the way.**