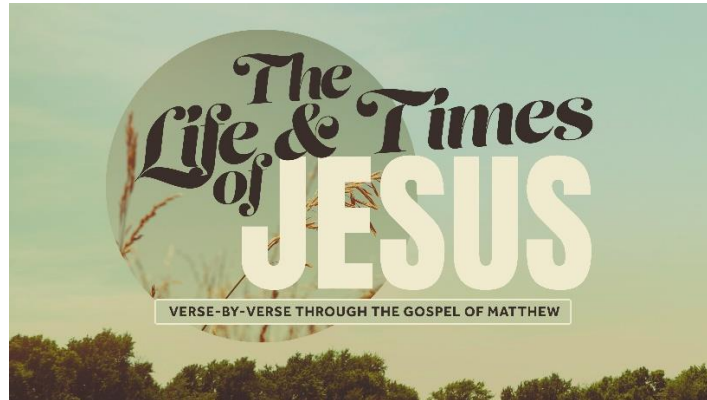


FELLOWSHIP NOTES – October 23rd, 2022



Part 5: “Preparing the Way for the Humble King” (Part 1) Matthew 3:1-6

1. The Announcer of the King’s Arrival: _____ – Matt. 3:1-12

Repent: “to turn around, to change direction, to change the mind and will; it denotes a change from the wrong to the right, away from sin and toward righteousness”.

Observations and Lesson from the life of John the Baptist:

1. John was _____ by the Holy Spirit – Luke 1:15b; Ephesians 5:18
2. John was _____ to God and His Word – Matt. 3:1-6; Matt. 28:19-20
3. John was _____ in the way he lived – Luke 1:15a; Galatians 5:22-23
4. John was _____ and kept His focus on Christ – Mark 1:7; James 4:10
5. John was _____ to pointing people to Jesus – Matt. 3:1-6; Acts 1:8

NEXT SUNDAY – Part 6: “Preparing the Way for the Humble King” (Part 2)



Growth Group Study Guide for October 23rd- 30th

Getting Started

Group Discussion: Who was in your group, school, or community that you would have cast as a sort of “John the Baptist” (unique, out of the ordinary, etc.)? Why?

Digging Deeper

1. Where was the focus of John the Baptist’s ministry and what was the crux of his message? READ Matt. 3:1-2

In your own words, how would you describe repentance? (see message notes)

Repentance was also the message of Jesus, the apostles and the first message of the new church. Read Acts 2:38.

Why is repentance such a critical part of salvation? Read the article below, underline important truths that stand out to you for discussion...

“Repentance involves recognizing that you have thought wrongly in the past and determining to think rightly in the future. The repentant person has “second thoughts” about the mindset he formerly embraced. There is a change of disposition and a new way of thinking about God, about sin, about holiness, and about doing God’s will. True repentance is prompted by “godly sorrow,” and it “leads to salvation” (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Repentance and faith can be understood as two sides of the same coin. It is impossible to place your faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior without first changing your mind about your sin and about who Jesus is and what He has done. Whether it is repentance from willful rejection or repentance from ignorance or disinterest, it is a change of mind. Biblical repentance, in relation to salvation, is changing your mind from rejection of Christ to faith in Christ.

Repentance is not a work we do to earn salvation. No one can repent and come to God unless God pulls that person to Himself (John 6:44). Repentance is something God gives—it is only possible because of His grace (Acts 5:31; 11:18). No one can repent unless God grants repentance. All of salvation, including repentance and faith, is a result of God drawing us, opening our eyes, and changing our hearts. God’s longsuffering leads us to repentance (2 Peter 3:9), as does His kindness (Romans 2:4).

While repentance is not a work that earns salvation, repentance unto salvation does result in works. It is impossible to truly change your mind without that causing a change in action. In the Bible, repentance results in a change in behavior. That is why John the Baptist called people to “produce fruit in keeping with repentance” (Matthew 3:8). A person who has truly repented of his sin and exercised faith in Christ will give evidence of a changed life (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:19–23; James 2:14–26).”

What stood out to you in the above article?

2. Review the Observations and Life Lessons from John the Baptist from the Sunday morning message notes by reading the corresponding verses for each one (the second reference listed for each one).
While they are all of course important, which one do you feel is most challenging to you in your life right now? Why?

Wrapping Up

Close in prayer asking God for His help and grace in living out the spiritual lessons from the life of John the Baptist so that we all are seeking to apply them to our daily lives.