

The Message of John the Baptist

Study of Matthew, Part 8

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon Outline

John was a man cultivating the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I. The Coming of the Kingdom

- A. It challenges our assumptions.
- B. It exceeds our expectations.
- C. It reorders our lives.

II. The Certainty of Judgment

A. Judgment Expected by the King! (The Clear Piece)

- 1. The Wrath to come (3:17)
- 2. The Axe (3:10)
- 3. The Unquenchable Fire (3:10, 3:12)
- 4. His Winnowing Fork (3:12)

B. Judgment Exacted upon the King! (The Missing Piece)

III. The Call to Repentance

A. Who needs to repent?

B. What does it mean to repent?

- 1. A Change in Thinking
- 2. A Change in Affections
- 3. A Change in Direction
- 4. A Change in Action
- 5. A Change that Bears Fruit

C. When do we need to repent?

The Message of John the Baptist

Study of Matthew, Part 8

Matthew 3:1-12

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

1. Were the people of Jesus' day expecting a kingdom? If so, what kind? How did John's message and Jesus' kingdom challenge their assumptions about that kingdom?
2. The gospel is the good news about the kingdom of heaven. This is different than we normally think about it. What are some of our assumptions about the gospel? How do we shrink it? Is it really about us? About now? About here?
3. How does this gospel of the kingdom exceed the expectations of the people of Jesus day?
4. How does the gospel of the kingdom reorder our lives? (Look ahead to chapter 5-7)
5. How do we learn to think bigger about the gospel as the coming of kingdom? Why is this important? Why is this hard for us?
6. If the gospel is really about the coming of a king and kingdom, why is judgment to be expected? How does mankind resist and rebel against the kingship of Jesus?
7. At least here, John's message is missing an important piece of the gospel. Which one? How does the coming of Jesus challenge even his own expectations?
8. Who takes the wrath first? Who is cut down by the axe first? Who is thrown into the fire first? Who is judged first?
9. Why is the call to repentance good news for sinners?
10. What does it mean to repent? Who needs to repent? When do we need to repent? Is repentance a one-time thing?
11. When we repent, what do we think differently about? What do we feel differently about? How do we act differently?