

The Gospel According to Matthew

Study # 3

Chapter 3

Outline

I. John the Baptist Prepares the Way (3:1-12)

II. John Baptizes Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17)

Notes:

Matt. 3:1-4

John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus. He was six months older than Jesus (Luke 1:26, 36). He was the forerunner of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus. He was prophesied by the Prophet Isaiah over seven hundred years before (Isaiah 40:3). He came to "prepare the way of the Lord." The coming of John the Baptist was also prophesied by Malachi (Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6). John the Baptist typified Elijah in the Old Testament. He was Elijah who is to come (Matt. 17:11-13; Luke 1:17). John the Baptist dressed similar to Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). His clothes were far from comfortable. His food was locusts, which were a permitted food in the Old Testament (Lev. 11:22) and wild honey.

John the Baptist preached a message of repentance. Repentance is a radical change of mind that produces a change of heart and life. "Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation" (2 Cor. 7:8-11). Jesus also at the beginning of His ministry echoed the same message of repentance (Matt. 4:17). God commands men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). It is our responsibility to repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15). Repentance is not a work and is a gift from God and produced by God's sovereign grace alone (2 Tim. 2:25; Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8-9). Before conversion, men are spiritually dead and are unable to change (Jer. 13:23). God quickened us and made us alive in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:4-5).

Applications

God hates sin and wants us to turn from our sins (Isaiah 55:6-7). He wants us to be holy and live holy lives (1 Peter 1:16).

Prayer Topic

Pray that God would make you more holy and grant you a hatred for your sins and grace to turn away from your sins.

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