



The King and His Kingdom *Matthew 3*

Get Ready for the Real King!

3:1-6 Meet John, the Baptizer (and cousin of Jesus)

Repent (turn away from, a radical change)

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

2 Cor. 7:10 NIV

Kingdom of heaven (reign, royal power)

Is at hand=is very near, stands near and ready

Isaiah prophecy: *"A voice of one crying in the desert saying; 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.'"*

The significance of how John dressed? Points to Elijah the Prophet: 2 Kings 1:7-8

*The king (Ahab) asked ... "What kind of man was it who came to meet you and told you this?" "He was a man with a garment of hair and with a leather belt around his waist." The king said, "That was **Elijah** the Tishbite."*

"John's simple food, clothing and lifestyle were visual protests against self-indulgence." Concordia Self-Study Bible NIV

Note: The Jews were looking for Elijah to return announcing the arrival of the Messiah: *"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.* Malachi 4:5 (Last book of the OT)

Jesus said of John: *"And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come."* Matt 11:14 NIV (Not "reincarnated" but a type of Elijah)

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The baptism of John is best described in Mark (1:4) *"And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.* John's baptism is unique; it is in-between circumcision and the baptism Jesus instituted.

3:7-10 Meet the Pharisees and Sadducees

John confronts the religious leaders: "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance." Matt 3:8 ESV

"Brood of vipers" =their lifestyles and message are poisonous, deceptive and lead to destruction and death!

Pride - judgment - destruction

3:11-17 The Baptism of Jesus (Note the presence of the Trinity)

John points to Jesus because Jesus is the point!

The beginning of Jesus' public ministry (Jesus is 30 years old)

What did Jesus mean when he said, *"...it (his baptism) is fitting to fulfill all righteousness."* Luther explains: "[Christ] accepted it from John for the reason that he was entering into our stead, indeed, our person, that is, becoming a sinner for us, taking upon himself the sins which he had not committed, and wiping them out and drowning them in his holy baptism." ESV Concordia Study Bible

Application Questions:

- What perspective does John's simple lifestyle, dress, diet and straightforward message say about your own faith outlook?
- Contrast John's life and message with the Pharisees and Sadducees.
- Personalize "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."
- Baptism and Communion are like "bookends" of Jesus' ministry. How do these two grace-filled gifts start and strengthen your faith?

Next... read and reread Matthew chapters 4 and 5.