

**“The Baptism of the King”**

**Matthew 3**

**Scripture Ref:** Mal 4:5-6; Matt 17:11-13; Is 40:3; Ps 51:17; 2 Peter 3:9; Mal 3:3; Acts 19:1-4; Ez 37:14; Matt 28:19; 2 Cor 5:21; Ps 2:7; Gal 3:26-27

**John the Baptist – The One to Come...**

1. In ancient times when a King was to arrive in a certain area, the people of that region would work to smooth and level the road in preparation for the King to arrive.
2. According to Luke, John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth, cousin of Mary, who had been barren and was “advanced in years” (Luke 1:5-45)
  - a. An angel appeared to her husband Zacharias in the temple, but Zach didn’t believe the angel, and so he struck him speechless until the child was born!
3. John was a fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6 regarding the coming of Elijah the prophet

***Mal 4:5-6***

*5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*

*6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”*

***Matt 17:11-13***

*11 Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. 12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.*

3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

*"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'" (Is 40:3)*

**John the Baptist – The Original Hippie**

4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

**4. John the Baptist was the original hippie**

- a. Long hair and a beard (all Jewish men had this)
  - b. Hangs out at the beach (Jordan)
  - c. Wears a wild clothes - camel hair tunic (tradition tells us that he wore the mantel that Elijah wore, his father Zachariah the priest retrieved it from the temple)
  - d. Big old leather belt (remember those from the 60's!)
  - e. Lived on trail mix with some insect protein tossed in.
  - f. This dude was counter-culture before counter-culture became cool!
5. Not only was his appearance different – his Message was not like what was preached at the local church there in Jerusalem
- a. You see, just like many churches today, going to worship had become a routine – it was all ritual – you did your duty and you were good for another week.
  - b. John got out of the synagogue and preached “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”
  - c. He didn't have a cool band, a big building, a cool website, or neat graphics – but people came in droves to hear his message!

### **The Message of John the Baptist**

#### **Part I - Repentance**

6. “Repent” - his means TURN AWAY. Repentance is not being sorry for your sin, repentance is saying *“I'm sorry, and I am going to turn away from that sin!”*
- a. Once I bought a frozen prepared mix – chicken and veggies, looked great on the package – just 3 mins in the microwave and “instant awesome meal”
  - b. But when I cooked it – it was terrible – soggy and rubbery, the sauce was just weird...
  - c. I made a decision – “I am not buying that brand – ever again”
    - i. I repented of that brand!
  - d. ACTION WORD: When we repent to the Lord – true repentance is making a decision, coupled with action – “I am not going there again – ever again.”

***Repentance is a decision to want freedom more than bondage.***

*(Kent Crockett, I Once Was Blind But Now I Squint, Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2004, 122)*

7. **But there is also a brokenness that must be present – a realization that our sin has hurt us, others, and the Lord**

**Ps 51:17**

*17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart -- These, O God, You will not despise.*

**Part II – The Kingdom of God**

8. **“The kingdom of heaven is at hand” – God had promised to send the Messiah to Israel – and John was the herald of Jesus the Messiah**
- a. **Now I believe that John was expecting the Messiah to come to bring judgment and establish the Kingdom right then**
  - b. **John had an urgency about him – “Get right with God, the time is short!”**

*2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

**Snakes in the House**

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

9. **John is cool because he gets right into the face of the religious leaders who thought there were good enough to please God.**
- a. **I believe by the Spirit of the Lord, is able to place his finger at the root of their sin...**
  - b. **“Vipers” - Pharisees and Sadducees**
    - i. **Pharisees – They were the ‘legalists’ who diligently followed the law. They were the ones who were always accusing Jesus. Problem was they felt that their adherence to the law was sufficient to please God**
    - ii. **Sadducees – They were the liberals who controlled the temple business, the tables that Jesus overturned when He entered the temple!**
    - iii. **These two groups fought often with each other, until they found a common enemy in Jesus!**
  - c. **It was widely taught in that day that Abraham’s merits were plenty for any Jew’s salvation, that a Jewish person *couldn’t* go to hell.**

- d. **John points out that these Pharisees and Scribes are of a different family; they are a brood of vipers - meaning a family associated with serpents!**

*Mal 3:3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.*

**What's all this Baptism?**

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**10. A little explanation – There are three baptisms spoken of here, and four that I will comment on... (fasten your seat belt!)**

**“Baptize with water”**

**11. John's baptism was a baptism “unto repentance”.**

- a. **Paul gives us more information in Acts 19:**

***Acts 19:1-4***

*And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."*

*3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?"*

*So they said, "Into John's baptism."*

*4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."*

- b. **Paul explains that John's baptism was a symbol of repentance and it “looked forward” to Jesus – the who would come.**

**“Baptize with the Holy Spirit”**

**12. John exclaims that Jesus will baptize with the “Holy Spirit”**

- a. **This is from Ezek 17**

*Ezek 37:14 I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD."*

- b. And was fulfilled at Pentecost when the Spirit of God came upon the believers**

**Acts 2:1-4**

*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

- c. After Pentecost, the filling of the Holy Spirit is something that God has for every believer..**

**Acts 19:5-6**

*5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*

**“Baptize with fire”**

- 13. This simply speaks of the judgment to come at the Lords second coming.**

12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

**“Baptize in the name of the Lord Jesus”**

- 14. I am not going to try and create a doctrinal problem here and make “another Baptism”**

- a. But it is worth noting that TODAY when we baptize, it is not “John’s Baptism” looking *forward* to the coming Messiah**
- b. We are following Jesus command as He left this planet:**

***Matt 28:19*** *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

- c. We are identifying the “death” of the old man by the submission, the “raising up” of the new man when we are raised, and the “cleansing” of sin by the water**

**Baptism of the King**

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

**15. I can see John now – he is there preaching his heart out, dunking people in the river Jordan, and here comes Jesus –**

**a. The Lord apparently showing John – “This is He”**

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

**16. Need to understand - Jesus was not a sinner that needed to repent, He knew no sin:**

*2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

**a. Rather Jesus came to “be sin for us” – through this act and many others Jesus came to “identify” Himself with sinful man...**

**17. One of the accusations that the religious rulers made against Him was that He associated with sinners...**

- a. He ate with them**
- b. He traveled with them**
- c. He even touched lepers!**

**18. And that is a beautiful picture – that no matter how unclean a person is, no matter how dirty they have gotten themselves...**

**a. Jesus is willing to reach out and touch the heart of a sinner – and cleanse that person of all sin!**

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

*Ps 2:7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*

**19. Can we look at the magnitude... God was “well pleased with His Son.**

**a. We have to take it to the next step – Paul wrote to the Galatians**

*Gal 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

- b. IOW when you become a Christian, you become a son of God through faith in Christ – you put on Christ**
- c. When God looks at you or me - God is well pleased!**

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