

His People -Sermon Study on Matthew 3

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-The problem this sermon addresses is that of claiming Jesus with an unchanged heart, of having no fruit in keeping with repentance; no behavior change.

Read the following article and discuss:

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/the-gospel-that-is-killing-us-44697/>

The Central Proposition of the Text is:

John came to prepare a people for their King

Not just any people

But repentant people

For not just any King

Main Idea:

Christ's people are repentant people.

John came to prepare a people for their King (Matthew 3:1-6)

Here we see the King's herald John announce and prepare the way for Jesus to come on the scene.

- What was John's message?
- Read Isaiah 40:3-5 and Malachi 3:1, and 4:1-6. How do these passages demonstrate that John's message would be repentance?
- Read 2 Kings 1:7-8. Who does John look just like?
- Read John 1:21. Was John Elijah?
- Read Luke 1:6-17. In what sense was John related to Elijah?
- Read Matthew 11:7-15. Jesus says that if they were to accept Him then John would have fit the office of Elijah, the herald. Since they did not accept Jesus ultimately than one like Elijah is still to come (since we know that God is yet to fulfill His promises to the Nation of Israel - Romans 11:25-27) to announce His second coming. Read Zechariah 12:1-13:1 and Ezekiel 36:22-28. What will happen before this happens in the future?
- Read Revelation 11:3-12. How do these two witnesses resemble the offices of Moses and Elijah?
- Where else do we see these two figures in relation to Christ. Turn to Matthew 17:1-3, for the answer.
- Read the following article and discuss:
 - <http://www.gotquestions.org/two-witnesses.html>

Not just any people (Matthew 3:7-12)

Here we see the Kings enemies come out in opposition of Him. These are the arrogant ones of Malachi 4:1-2.

- Read Luke 7:24-30. What reveals to us that the Pharisees and Scribes were enemies of Christ?
- John tells them to bear fruit in keeping with repentance (Matt. 3:8). They likely made the case that they were children of Abraham and did not need to repent like the dirty

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Gentiles. How might this resemble modern day American Christianity? How might this resemble you?

-Read Luke 13:1-5. What are Jesus' terms for salvation?

-Repentance literally means to 'change your mind,' carefully read 2 Corinthians 7:8-12. What is it that leads to repentance? And what follows repentance or what is the fruit of repentance?

-read the following article and discuss as it relates to today's study:

-<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/fruit-repentance/>

But Repentant People (Matthew 3:13-15)

Here we see the King's people embraced by their King who identifies with them in Baptism.

-Read Isaiah 53:11-12. Based on these verses how might Christ's baptism fulfill all righteousness? Whose righteousness was He fulfilling?

-Read Luke 12:49-53. Based on these verses, what did His water baptism and identification with repentant sinners portend for Him? What was His longing?

For not just any King (Matthew 3:16-17)

Here we see the King's coronation and the full revelation of God as both Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

-Christ identified with repentant sinners through His baptism. Read how Matthew ends His gospel in Matthew 28:19. How does the Trinity figure in both passages? Remember that it is through our repentance that we see God.

-The voice from Heaven shows both aspects of Christ "This is my Son," reminds us of Psalm 2. And, "with whom I am well pleased," reminds us of Isaiah 42:1-9. We see the two aspects of Christ and the three persons of the Trinity in this one brief snippet. Based on all of this, how important do you think repentance is to God? How offensive is modern day unrepentant Christianity to Him?

Application

Read Romans 7:21-8:1. Paraphrasing J.D. Grear: 'Repentance is not the absence of struggle -it is the absence of settled defiance...If Christ is on the throne self is on the cross. If self is on the throne Christ is on the cross.'

Repentance is not about a one time act but about a current posture towards God. It is not about not falling but about not staying down or seeking aid from self righteousness. It is staying bowed at the foot of the cross in a posture of submission to the Lordship of Christ and your need for a Savior.

We may never outgrow our need but we may forget our need. Have you forgotten?

Read the following article and discuss some specific ways to apply this to your life:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/how-to-repent-as-a-christian>