

Studies in Matthew

The Message of Repentance

Scripture Text

Matthew 3:1-12



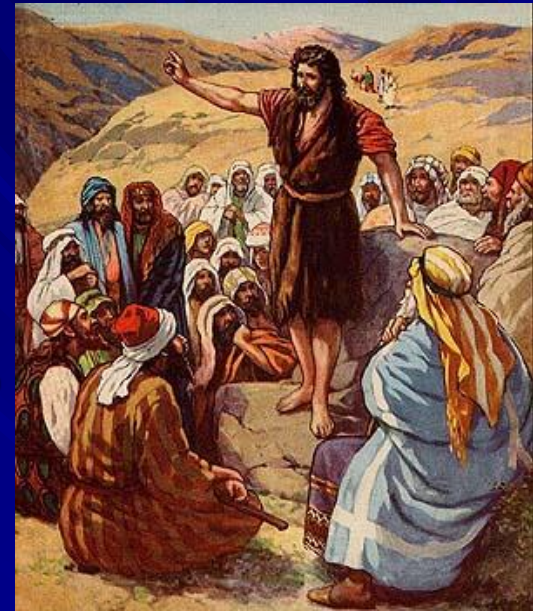
John the Baptist

■ Son of Zacharias and Elizabeth

■ Repentance message

■ Preparation for the Messianic Kingdom

■ Wilderness prophetic lifestyle



Response #1

(v4-5) Large numbers confessed their
sins

and were baptized



(Lk 3:10-14) Asked for instruction

- Generosity
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Contentment

Response #2

(v7) Stealth resistance

- Dangerous and hypocritical
- Skeptical critical spirit (Jn 1:19ff)
- Unrepentant - self-satisfied
- Concerned about control



Response #3

(Lk 3:19-20) Outright hostility



John's Message

Focuses on the “good” people who feel little or no need of Jesus...

His message makes the uncomfortable comfortable and the comfortable uncomfortable.

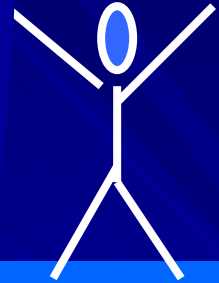
Perhaps the most dangerous trap in the spiritual realm is that of false security.

Myths

- Saved by my heritage
- Saved by my good works



The Elevator Illustration



Myths

- Saved by my heritage
 - Saved by my good works
 - Saved by my associations
 - Saved by intellectual belief
-
- Those who promote these myths are like dangerous vipers



What is Sin?

Violating God's Laws

Missing the mark of God's perfection

Living independent of God!

S-I-N

Myths

- Saved by my heritage
 - Saved by my good works
 - Saved by my associations
 - Saved by intellectual belief
-
- Those who promote these myths are like dangerous vipers
 - The end result of these myths is hell
 - Eternal separation from God



Grace

Grace

Grace

Self Test

- **Can I remember a date or at least an era when I personally asked Jesus to forgive my sins and come into my life?**
- **Do I have a growing desire to spend time with God and with His people?**
- **Have I seen significant changes for good in my life?**
- **Am I increasingly uncomfortable with things that detract from my relationship with God?**

- **If you can honestly answer “Yes” to all the above questions, then praise God” You are His child! You need not fear the judgment. You have eternal life.**
- **If you must answer “no” to any of the above questions, you need to be seriously concerned. Genuine saving faith in Jesus Christ must be specifically and sincerely received by asking Him into your life and asking for His Spirit to change you.**

My Response

On This Date _____

I asked Jesus Christ to forgive my sins
and become the leader of my life
through His Holy Spirit.



Signed _____

Witness _____