



**Carrollton Christian
Fellowship**

Matthew 3 College Devotions

Day 1: The Foundation of Repentance

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-6

Devotional:

Welcome to a journey of discovering a relationship with the King. As we've seen in Matthew 3, John the Baptist starts us off with a clear message: repentance. But what is repentance? Contrary to popular belief, repentance is not just an emotional experience; it is a decisive action. Repentance involves a change of mind and direction—it requires us to recognize our wrongs and actively turn away from them.

Reflection:

Have you ever changed your major or career path because you realized it wasn't what you were meant to do? While that decision may have been tough, it often leads to greater fulfillment. Likewise, repentance leads us to a fulfilling relationship with Jesus, allowing us to experience real change and growth.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to understand the true meaning of repentance. Guide me to see the areas of my life where I need to turn away from wrong choices and turn towards You. Give me the strength to act on these changes. Amen.

Day 2: The Role of Baptism

Scripture: Matthew 3:11

Devotional:

Baptism is more than a ritual; it's an identification with Jesus. John the Baptist's baptism focused on repentance, preparing people's hearts for the coming Messiah. However, Jesus' baptism represents a cleansing and renewal that penetrates deep into our hearts and minds.

Reflection:

Think about the sense of accomplishment and fresh start you feel after completing a challenging semester. Baptism symbolizes an even greater fresh start—one that connects us with Christ's death and resurrection, enabling us to live a new life through His power.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for offering us a fresh start. As I contemplate the significance of baptism, help me to understand its deeper meaning of identification with Your death, burial, and resurrection. Renew my heart and mind with Your cleansing power. Amen.

Day 3: Bearing Fruits Worthy of Repentance

Scripture: Matthew 3:8

Devotional:

John the Baptist's call to "bear fruits worthy of repentance" challenges us to live out the change we claim to have undergone. True repentance is evident in our actions—our daily choices, our interactions, and our lifestyle.

Reflection:

Consider the hard work you put into acing an important project or exam. In the same way, your spiritual life requires effort and action. Reflect on how your daily choices align with the life Jesus calls you to lead. Are your actions demonstrating a changed heart?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help me to bear fruits worthy of repentance. Show me how my actions can reflect a truly transformed life. Guide me in making decisions that honor You and demonstrate my commitment to my new path. Amen.

Day 4: The Holy Spirit's Empowerment

Scripture: Acts 1:8

Devotional:

Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit before beginning their ministry. This empowerment extends beyond mere conviction of sin; it includes a dynamic equipping for service and witness.

Reflection:

Think about the difference between theoretical knowledge and practical application. Just as you rely on both to excel in your field, the Holy Spirit provides not just the knowledge of Christ but the power to live out that knowledge effectively. Are you seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowerment in your life?

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, I invite You to fill me and empower me for the tasks ahead. Equip me to be an effective witness for Christ in my community and beyond. Help me to serve You with excellence and passion. Amen.

Day 5: Living Out the King's Policies

Scripture: Matthew 3:10

Devotional:

Living in the Kingdom of God involves more than accepting Jesus in our hearts—it requires us to adhere to His kingdom principles. God's Word aims to root out our pride and replace it with humility, aligning our lives with His will.

Reflection:

As a recent college graduate, you are familiar with the importance of adhering to ethical standards in your chosen field. In the same way, living by God's standards propels us into a life marked by love, integrity, and service. Reflect on how you can incorporate these kingdom principles in your daily routines.

Prayer:

God, I commit to living by Your kingdom principles. Help me to root out pride and embrace humility. Let my life be a testament to Your transformative power and love. Guide my path as I navigate this new chapter in my life. Amen.

Closing Thoughts:

As you prepare to embark on this new journey in life after graduation, remember that your relationship with the King is foundational to every step you take. Embrace the power of repentance, the significance of baptism, the fruits of a repentant life, the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and the principles of God's Kingdom. May your life reflect the love, grace, and power of Jesus Christ.