



Matthew 3: Outline

I. Introduction to the Sermon

- 1.** Scripture Reference: Matthew 3
- 2.** Purpose: introduction to how to begin a relationship with the King (Jesus)
- 3.** Main Points:
 - a.** The role of John the Baptist
 - b.** The concepts of repentance and baptism
 - c.** The significance of Jesus and the Holy Spirit

II. John the Baptist: The Ambassador (Matthew 3:1-6)

- 1.** Appearance and Lifestyle of John the Baptist
 - a.** Clothed in camel's hair with a leather belt
 - b.** Ate locusts and wild honey
- 2.** John the Baptist's Role
 - a.** Acting as an ambassador pointing to the King
 - b.** Preaching repentance to prepare people for Jesus

3. The Multitudes Respond

- a.** People from Jerusalem, Judea, and around the Jordan came
- b.** They were baptized and confessed their sins

III. The Concept of Repentance

1. Definition of Repentance

- a.** Not just a feeling but an actionable change in direction
- b.** Making a decision to turn away from sin and follow God's ways

2. Characteristics of True Repentance

- a.** A heartfelt sorrow for sin
- b.** Evidenced by changes in behavior and actions
- c.** A choice, not something forced

IV. The Role of Baptism

1. Baptism of John vs. Baptism of Jesus and the Holy Spirit

- a. John's baptism focused on repentance
- b. Jesus' baptism introduces the new way of living (Holy Spirit's role)

2. Symbolism of Baptism

- a. Identifying with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection
- b. Preparing hearts to receive the Messiah
- c. An outward sign of inward change

V. Religious Leaders and Hypocrisy (Matthew 3:7-9)

- 1. Pharisees and Sadducees**
 - a. Pharisees: Focused on traditions and oral laws
 - b. Sadducees: Politically powerful, denied afterlife
- 2. John's Rebuke**
 - a. Called them a "brood of vipers"
 - b. Urged them to bear fruits worthy of repentance

VI. The Power and Role of the Holy Spirit

- 1. The Holy Spirit's Baptism**
 - a. Different from John's baptism – empowers for service
 - b. The Holy Spirit fills believers with understanding and abilities
- 2. Evidence of the Holy Spirit's Work**
 - a. Genuine transformation and empowerment for ministry
 - b. Spiritual gifts for service in the body of Christ

VII. The Significance of Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)

- 1. Jesus' Baptism by John**
 - a. An act of obedience, identifying with humanity
 - b. Sky opens, a dove descends, and God's voice declares Jesus as His beloved Son
- 2. The Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry**
 - a. Public declaration of His mission and identity
 - b. Illustrates the correct way to start a ministry

VIII. Living Out the Call: Fruits of Repentance

- 1. Bearing Fruits Worthy of Repentance**
 - a. Actions should reflect the change in heart
 - b. Living according to God's Kingdom principles
- 2. The Eternal Relevance of God's Word**
 - a. Contrasted with temporary human traditions
 - b. God's Word provides guidance and power for transformation

IX. Conclusion

- 1. Summary of Key Points**
 - a. Importance of repentance and baptism
 - b. Role of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life
 - c. The significance of living according to God's Word
- 2. Our Response**
 - a. Personal commitment to repent, be baptized, and be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - b. Living out a life that reflects the changes God works in our hearts

Further Reflection and Application

Questions for self-examination:

- Have I truly repented and turned away from my sins?
- Have I been baptized as a public declaration of my faith?
- Am I living under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit?
- Do my actions reflect a life aligned with God's Kingdom principles?