

Study of Matthew

Matthew 3:1 – 6

March 27, 2022

DISCUSSION QUESTION: How is your road preparing skills? How do you prepare the way for your family to hear the Good News?

TODAY: Matthew 3:1-6

Once again Matthew emphasizes something that God has declared. He points to Isaiah the prophet has spoken.

John the Baptist is the miracle son of the elderly couple Zacharias, a priest serving in the temple, and Elizabeth. They walked blameless before God. God answers their prayer for a child in their old age.

Matthew points to John the Baptist and says, this is the one Isaiah spoke about (Isaiah 40)! This is the voice that was to come. A voice that indicates that things are going to change. Isaiah was living physically under Babylonian captivity. The prophecy is that the captivity is about to end and the people can receive comfort and comfort can be spoken. Matthew reveals that the prophecy is two-fold and also applies to John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord or the way of Christ.

Like John the Baptist we too can speak words of consolations to those that under the chains of darkness and sin.

Let's look at John the Baptist's:

1. Call (vs. 1 – 2)

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

First, we see the call, the purpose of John the Baptist life. Clarity in his message...The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. God is about to reveal what HIS Kingdom really looks like.

Luke 17:20-21 *"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."* [KJV]

We too need to understand our call as disciples of Christ. Pray thy Kingdom come; Preach the Kingdom of God has come and been revealed through none other than Jesus Christ. We are called to live under the Kingdom...under the rule of God.

It is needed in our generation...this Kingdom can be within you.

Too many living in the wrong Kingdom.

Colossians 1:12-14 *"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, (delivered and drawn us to HIMSELF out of the control and the dominion of darkness, AMP) and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"* [KJV]

2. Cry (vs. 3b)

The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord,

Prepare or make ready the way or the road or a traveler's way. John the Baptist was always very clear I'm not the ONE that is to come I'm just the crying out that HE is coming. I almost made this point a construction worker. The reason for that is because this is a quote from Isaiah. Isaiah 40:1-5 "*Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."* [ESV]

We can prepare the way for Christ to come into the life of the children around you! You can be the construction worker. John the Baptist is crying out for the entrance of Christ into humanity. That work does not need to be done again. But we have an association with John the Baptist: Matthew 11:11 "*Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*" [KJV]

If John could cry knowing what was coming, we can cry because of what we have experienced and what is available!

3. Character (vs. 4 – 5)

4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan.

Some say the clothing pointed to self-denial. Others to dressing like a prophet...it is what many prophets wore in Old Testament. By pointing out John's appearance and lifestyle it certainly points out the symbolic role of John, like the Old Testament prophets.

But maybe more, the message John had demanded ruggedness; a message that required one to be physically and mentally strong...after all he is going to lose his head over his message. We need a ruggedness to our lives to live this message.

4. Confession of Sins

Vs. 2 John's message was repent...then in verse 6 we find the people were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins

1 John 1:6-10 "*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*" [KJV]