

Study of Matthew Matthew 3:7 – 12

April 3, 2022

Sunset Avenue Church of God

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Have you been baptized in fire? Does the world see a burning passion in you about Jesus Christ?

TODAY: Matthew 3:7 – 12

1. Surveillance of the Religious (vs. 7a)

John the Baptist is not afraid to call out the self-righteous Pharisees and Sadducees.

The self-righteous always have others under surveillance to see what you are not doing right. Don't misunderstand, there are truths that must be defended but there is a huge difference in a precept and a preference.

There is a huge difference in a commandment and a conviction.

Romans 14:1-4 *"As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand."* [ESV]

2. Strong Response (vs. 7b)

John the Baptist calls these people a generation of vipers

- A brood of vipers; Sons of snakes; Offspring of poisonous snakes

Here is language that is blunt. Sometimes language needs to be strong and clear.

Industries like Disney is a big issue in our society, certainly creating problems for parents on entertainment but they are not our biggest problem; our biggest problem are the poisonous snakes acting like religious folk! We have too many woke preachers of tolerance, but their message is to tolerate what God will not tolerate!

3. Suitable Repentance (vs. 8 – 10)

John the Baptist preaches to bring fruit meet for repentance. Or bring what is suitable in respect to repentance. Another way of saying this is show the fruit that reveals you have repented that you have turned from sin.

John the Baptist, the one preparing the way for Christ, declares that when one repents there will be evidence of repentance. One's family's religious conviction and position is not evidence for repentance. Don't say we are Abraham's children...don't say who your daddy & granddaddy where...oh my granddaddy was a preacher...that is not your fruit!

If no fruit, if no evidence, then that tree is cut down and cast into the fire...he will speak of the separating that will happen at the end of the age...fruit (wheat) from chaff. Repentance is pretty simple: it is admitting that we are wrong and what God has said about Himself is true and I must change. When we repent there will be a change...we will have fruit.

One person has stated, "If you have the courage to name sin then offer the grace that can do something about it."

John the Baptist does points out their condition...a bunch of poisonous snakes but then offers a solution.

4. Submerged in Fire (vs. 11)

vs. 11 *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:"* [KJV]

People don't come to watch a pond freeze over but they will come to watch something burn.

Too many trying to explain that the Baptism with the Holy Ghost is not needed and because many don't have it, people are not interested in their cold, lifeless, dead religion.

But Jesus will submerge us in the Holy Spirit and we will have a fire.