



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **The King Has Arrived: Are You Ready? (Matthew 3)**

Date: **March 11, 2018**

We are back in the Gospel of Matthew this week as we study Matthew 3. More than 25 years have transpired between Matthew 2 and Matthew 3. Jesus is now an adult and is about to begin his earthly ministry. This week's text begins with John the Baptist preaching in the Judean desert. After 400 years of silence without a prophet, John the Baptist bursts onto the scene calling people to repent because of the King's imminent arrival. He was not afraid to confront the Pharisees and the Sadducees, warning them to flee from the wrath to come and to prove their repentance. John the Baptist also warned people of the coming judgment in which the unrepentant will be thrown into hellfire. Toward the end of the narrative, Jesus comes forward to be baptized by John. After Jesus' baptism, the Spirit of God descends upon him and a voice from heaven says, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This passage is a call for us to believe the gospel, repent of sin, and submit to the Kingship of Jesus. The King has arrived and we must be ready.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 3 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. Who is John the Baptist? What role is he given by God to fulfill?
 - b. What is the message that John the Baptist preaches in verse 2 and what does it mean?
 - c. How does John the Baptist prepare the way for King Jesus (v. 3)?
 - d. Who were the Pharisees and the Sadducees (v. 7)? Why does John the Baptist refer to them as a "brood of vipers"?
 - e. How does John the Baptist call out the Pharisees and Sadducees? How does this example serve as biblical precedent and justification for calling out false teachers?
 - f. What does it mean to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance," (v. 8)? What happens to those who do not bear fruit?



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- g. Explain verse 9. What does John the Baptist mean by what he says in verse 9?
- h. John the Baptist says that in the baptism associated with the coming King, some will be baptized with the Holy Spirit and some with fire (v. 11). What does this mean? Who will be baptized by the Holy Spirit and who by fire?
- i. How do we see the doctrine of the Trinity in the baptism of Christ?
- j. What Old Testament passages are referenced in verses 16-17? How do these verses allude to the fact that Jesus Christ is the King and Messiah that Israel has been waiting for?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. John the Baptist called people to “Repent.” What does it mean to repent? What does a saving response to the gospel look like? How does John’s offer of the gospel in verse 2 instruct us on how we should communicate the gospel to others?
3. What does it mean to bear fruit in keeping with repentance (v. 8)? What does it say about our walk with Christ if fruit is lacking in our life? How can we bear more fruit in keeping with repentance? Hint: See John 15:1-11.
4. John warns of the “wrath to come,” (v. 7) and the “unquenchable fire,” (v. 12) that awaits the unrepentant. Why is it important to remember the doctrine of hell? How can these truths motivate us to repent and turn from sin?
5. What is the significance of Jesus’ baptism? How does it provide an example for believers to follow?

Accountability Question

Is there anything in your life holding you back from fully submitting to King Jesus? If so, what is it and how can we hold you accountable to repent of it?