

Yesterday's News Is Today's News

October 4, 2015

Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 3:1-9

John the Baptist's news is _____ news, from _____.

For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'" **Matthew 3:3**

⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'⁵Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; ⁶And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" **Luke 3:4-6**

- Matthew quotes from Isaiah:

³The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; ⁵The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." **Isaiah 40:3-5**

- Understand that God's _____ has been unfolding _____
John the Baptist preached his news!
- God told Isaiah to "cry out" to the people that the LORD is coming. Are you getting the news?
- This news is still _____ and happening now!

John's news is that we should prepare for Christ's coming through _____.

⁵Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁶and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Matthew 3:5-9

³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins

Luke 3:3

- Repentance is a _____ of self. Contrast this with the Pharisees righteousness in the Law.
- To deny ourselves means we must _____ sin!
- John's call is for _____ the people. *And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*(Luke 3:6), *The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken* (Isaiah 40:5). The Book of Isaiah is a book of redemption that includes all the nations.

¹⁸"For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory. ¹⁹I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. ²⁰Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the LORD, "as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD. ²¹And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites," says the LORD.

Isaiah 66:18-21

- Jesus said John the Baptist was the promised second coming of Elijah, meaning Jesus is the promised Messiah of God.

¹⁴ And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. ¹² But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Matthew 11:14, 17:11-13

- In Judaism, a cup of wine is poured for Elijah at the Passover Seder meal in anticipation of Elijah's announcement of Messianic redemption. Good news! Elijah has returned! Christ has come!

John's news to repent from sin leads to the core of discipleship: _____.

⁹ And do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:9-12

⁷ Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Luke 3:7-

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- Jesus said our love for Him is through obedience to Him. He said those who love Him keep his _____.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

John 14:21

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Matthew 3:11

- Jesus brings a baptism of the _____, enabling us to obey His commands!
- Jesus told John his baptism was necessary to fulfill all righteousness, a righteousness that is passed on to all believers.

But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

Matthew 3:15

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

- Some _____ the news. John called the Pharisees and Sadducees a "brood of vipers".

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Matthew 3:7

- Missing or ignoring John's news has grave consequences!

His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:12

And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Luke 3:9

In repentance and practicing righteousness, _____.

In this we are prepared for Christ to do his work of redemption, to live through us. John's call of repentance was of course not sufficient for salvation, but a necessary heart condition to be prepared to receive salvation through Christ. And, inasmuch as we are working out our salvation (Phil. 2:12), the practice of repentance, denying myself, leads to obedience. This is the path of growth in the faith and is the process we call sanctification. As Paul writes in Romans 12:1-2, this obedience is in surrender to Christ by renewing our minds to God's will.