

## Matthew Chapter 3

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V: 1 Near Jericho @ Bethabara. (John 1:28)

Fulfilling prophecy: “the herald.” – tradition.

**Malachi 3:1** “Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.”

**Preaching** vs: teaching.

**Evangelistic** vs: instruction.

**Preaching:** G-2784. kerusso, kay-roos'-so; to herald (as a public crier), espec. divine truth (the gospel):--preach (-er), proclaim, publish.

**Preach:** (Websters) To speak in public on religious matters; ie a sermon, as from the Gospel; to give moral or religious advice, especially in a tiresome manner.

**Teach:** to provide or impart knowledge, with individual attention to the learner.

- One brings you to faith, the other matures you, instructs you in the ways of that faith.

**John 3:2** “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with Him.”

**Ecclesiastes 2:26** “For God giveth to a man that is good in His sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy; ...”

**Ephesians 4:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>And He gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup>for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

**Daniel 1:17** “As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”

**Jeremiah 3:15** “And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

V: 2 “Repent” vs “believe” speaking to God’s children who were in “religion” / “apostasy” (fallen away, drifted away, back slidden) vs: a true relationship or living faith.

- Repentance is an action, it is the result or fruit of believing.
- Change of direction, change of attitude, understanding, something perceptible.

*“The Kingdom of Heaven”* is the person of Jesus - it refers to where God rules.

- If He rules and reigns in your heart, then the Kingdom of Heaven is in you, you are born again.

**Jeremiah 24:7** “And I will give them an heart to know Me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto Me with their whole heart.”

**2 Corinthians 3:3** “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own. For you have been bought at a price, there glorify God in your body and in your Spirit, which are Gods.”

*“At hand”* - meaning right now.

**2 Corinthians 6:2** “... For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

V: 3 Quoting **Isaiah 40:3**

- John the Baptist was the last Old Testament prophet.

**Luke 16:16** “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.”

**Matthew 11:7-11** <sup>7</sup>“And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, what went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? <sup>8</sup>But what went ye out for to see? A Man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>For this is he, of whom it is written, behold, I send My messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 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.” (Malachi 3:1)

- Why? Because we've seen things that John couldn't – while he wondered and doubted, we've believed and received!

Question: Why was John the Baptist considered the greatest of the prophets?

Answer: He was the closest to Jesus and pointed directly to Him, John was the only prophet to see Jesus in the flesh, none of the other prophets got to baptize the Messiah.

V: 4 The Spirit of Elijah: **Malachi 4:5, Matthew 11:14**

**Malachi 4:5** “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:”

**Matthew 17:10-13** “<sup>10</sup>And His disciples asked Him, saying, why then say the scribes that Elijah must first come? <sup>11</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elijah truly shall first come, and restore all things. <sup>12</sup>But I say unto you, that Elijah is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. <sup>13</sup>Then the disciples understood that He spake unto them of John the Baptist.”

**2 Kings 1:1-15** Turn there /read.

Conclusion: John the Baptist was probably a fiery dude!

- **Locusts** = **carob bean** from the Joshua tree, also called Joshua bread, long brown carob sticks as opposed to grasshoppers.

Living a life of self-denial:

**Mark 8:34** “...whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

V: 5 Sounds like a revival.

- John the Baptist broke the 400 year silence since Malachi / 2 Chronicles, which is part of why there was such a great stir and why so many people including the religious leaders came out to the wilderness to see and hear him.

V: 6 John’s ministry was of repentance, and like the law it could only convict – admit, not justify – take away.

- Baptism of repentance, a new leaf so to speak, a new beginning.

**Acts 18:24-26** “<sup>24</sup>And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. <sup>25</sup>This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup>And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.”

- John and the law pointed, drove us to Jesus, who could take away our sins.

(Gal. 3:24)

**Galatians 3:24** “Wherefore the law was our school master to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

V: 7 Why did the Pharisee & Saducees come to the baptism?

**John 1:21** “And they asked him, what then? Are you Elijah? He said, I am not. Are you the prophet? And he answered, no.”

- They are challenging John, by what authority do you do this? What right do you have?

“*Oh generation / brood of vipers*”. Jesus used the same phrase.

- He’s not making “nice nice” ☹

There is no record of John turning them away.

**John 12:42** “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;”

John Ch. 3 – Nicodemus.

V: 8 “*Fruits worthy of repentance.*” = “proof” = actions, not words.

- He is telling them that there is more to it than just getting “dunked”, it’s a way of living, and it should be different.

**Galatians 3:11** “But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God it is evident: for the just shall live by faith.”

**James 1:22** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

- A changed life; what is different because of Jesus?

**James 2:17-18** “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works. Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.”

**1 John 3:18** “My little children, let us not love in word neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

V: 9 Boasting of Abraham as their father, God only has sons and daughters, not grandchildren. Regarding their father:

- Kind of like those who think they are saved because they are Americans.

**Romans 2:28-29** “<sup>28</sup>For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: <sup>29</sup>But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”

**John 8:33-44** *Abraham’s true descendants are spiritual.*

- If we were to boast in anything it should be in that we have a personal relationship with Jesus, not a distant genealogy.

**Galatians 6:14** “But God forbid that I should glory / boast save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

V: 10 When taking out a tree, first it is chopped down, then the roots / stump is exposed, then the roots are cut and the stump removed.

- Getting to the “root” of the problem vs the symptoms.
- If the ax is laid to the root, then something has been un-covered.

**Matthew 7:15-20** “<sup>15</sup>Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. <sup>16</sup>Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? <sup>17</sup>Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

- Speaking of eternal judgment.

V: 11 Jesus “*will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire*”

- Fire represents both purity and judgment.
- Two views:
  1. Fiery judgement as in:

**2 Thessalonians 1:6-9** “<sup>6</sup>Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; <sup>7</sup>and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup>in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>9</sup>Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.”

**Revelation Ch. 20** Lake of fire.

2. Refiners fire:

**Zechariah 13:8-9** “And it shall come to pass in all the land, says the Lord, that two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, this is My people; and each one will say, the Lord is my God.”

**Malachi 3:2-3** “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiners fire and like a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness.”

**Revelation 19:11-13** “<sup>11</sup>And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. <sup>13</sup>And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called the Word of God.”

V: 12 Threshing floor: Most often on a hill where there was a breeze. They would lay the grain out on the floor and walk on it, breaking the husks off of the grain. Then they would scoop it up and throw it into the air. The breeze would carry the chaff away and the grain would fall to the floor.

- A winnowing fan was used to create a breeze when there was none to do the job.
- A way of separating the wheat from the chaff.
- The grain was gathered into the barn, but the chaff was useless and got tossed into the fire.

**Ephesians 4:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”

- Context / seems to give clarity to verse 11.

V: 13 Transition: ministry of John the Baptist to the ministry of Jesus.

V: 14 John was saying that he needed what Jesus had to offer, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, righteousness, and eternal life.

- In a sense even John the Baptist acknowledged the need for the empowering of the Holy Spirit in our lives to live the Christian life.

V: 13-15 John knew Jesus but didn't know he was the Messiah until after he was baptized.

**John 1:33** “And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”

- John was acknowledging that Jesus was righteous, without sin, and that there was no need for repentance.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- Why did Jesus get baptized? Not because he was a sinner!

1. To fulfill all righteousness, it was the Father's will. **V:17 – submission.**
2. For Jesus to identify with His subjects. He was numbered with them.

**Isaiah 53:12** “Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

3. Setting the example for us.

**1 Peter 2:21** “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps:”

**1 John 2:6** “He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.”

4. It demonstrated approval for John's ministry of repentance.

- This is the formal beginning of Jesus' ministry and timing is everything.

**Psalm 119:172** “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”

V: 16 Prophesied in **Isaiah 11:2**, parallel account in **Luke 3:22**

**Isaiah 11:2** “And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”

V: 16-17 We see the Trinity, 3 in one.

**Genesis 1:1** “In the beginning God, created the heavens and the earth.”

- o The Hebrew word “God” is “Elohim”.
  1. “El” is the singular for of the word.
  2. “Ela” is the dual form.
  3. “Elohim” is used in reference to three or more.

**Deuteronomy 6:4** “Hear oh Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!”

“Elohim” ← plural, “echad”, compound unity vs: “yacheim”  
– “absolute one”

- There are not three Gods. There is one God, one God in three Persons.

V: 17 Same almost as the transfiguration, **Matt. 17:5** and **John 12:28**.

Beginning, middle, and end of Jesus’ ministry.

Matt. 3:1      Matt. 17:5      John 17:5

- John pointed everyone to Jesus.      **John 1:19-37**

- Other baptism’s:
  1. Noah’s      **1 Peter 3:20-21**
    - Noah = “comfort”.
    - Baptism = death & resurrection.
    - Flood was 40 days and 40 nights.
    - Dove landed on Noah when it was over.      **Genesis 8:9**
    - It was finished the same day then as when Jesus said it on the cross.      **John 19:30**      **Genesis 8:4**, 7<sup>th</sup> month, 17<sup>th</sup> day upon the mountain.
  2. Jonah’s
    - Baptized deeper than most.
    - Jonah = “dove”
    - Warned Ninivah, “repent”, 40 days to destruction.
    - The issue wasn’t the Ninivites, it was the sin in Jonah, it was his brokenness.
    - Revival, 400,000 people get saved.

2 baptisms portraying the essence of what baptism is.

- Dead to sin around us.
- Dead to sin in us.
- Acknowledging the One who died for our sins giving us new life.

**Galatians 2:20** “I am crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”