

Matthew 3

Pastor Jim Thomas

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SERMON NOTES

Matthew

The King and His Kingdom

Matthew 3

Here Comes the King!

Here in Matthew 3...

1. John the Baptist reminds us the most important thing we can do with our lives is serve God's kingdom purposes and point others to Christ. (v. 1-4)
2. The crowds remind us there are many who are more ready than we realize to hear the Gospel. (v. 5-6)
3. The religious leaders remind us we must be authentic in our repentance, and always beware spiritual presumption and pretense. (v. 7-12)
4. Jesus reminds us He came to save us by fulfilling all righteousness on our behalf. (v. 13-15)
5. The unity of the Trinity reminds us that Jesus came in the power of the Holy Spirit and with the imprimatur of heaven.

"If the kingdom of heaven is at hand, as John the Baptist says, then all our other kingdoms are called radically into question, including my own private kingdom, and yours."

- Fleming Rutledge, *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*

"The stiff and wooden quality about our religious lives is a result of our lack of holy desire. Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth."

- A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

Authentic New Testament Repentance:

1. Acknowledgement of sin
2. Remorse over sin
3. Confession of sin
4. Renouncement of sin
5. Renewed delight in Christ

“The aim of the law of God is not to make religious insiders feel better about themselves, but to move us all to repentance and faith, humbled under grace together.”

- Christopher Ash

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

- 2 Corinthians 5:21

“Jesus’s baptism is a multifaceted recapitulation of God’s acts in history that, now pregnant with meaning, is also a precapitulation of God’s work in the cross — an overture that tunes our ears to the coming themes, a clue to the meaning of Jesus’s arrival.”

- Trevor Laurence

“There is nothing like the consideration of divine grace to break the heart, both for sin and from sin. That is evangelical repentance, that flows from a sight of Christ, from a sense of His love, and the hopes of pardon and forgiveness through Him.”

- Matthew Henry