

“Sound the Alarm” Matthew 3:7-12

How many times have you been told...?
[verbally or non-verbally]



Let me illustrate 2 people in our text:

The guy with a show - Pharisee:

- ✓ Considers himself a Christian.
- ✓ He separates himself from criminals, sinners, foreigners.
- ✓ Looked down on common base people.
- ✓ Considers himself to be super spiritual, but it was external.
- ✓ Consequentially it was showy.
- ✓ Has many rules on his life; which makes him better than everyone else.
- ✓ Because of his following all these traditions, laws - he was spiritual; going to heaven. Other people were not!

The guy in charge - Sadducee:

- ✓ He says: “I’m only responsible for the Pentateuch, Mosaic law, therefore I am ok.”
- ✓ Closely associated to the temple.
- ✓ He feels like an authority over these things, but cares little about religion.
- ✓ He scorns legalistic traditions, denies the existence of angels, the resurrection, and most things supernatural.
- ✓ He finds God his own way, lives for the present, getting all he can out of people.
- ✓ Very wealthy because he rips off people.
- ✓ Politically liberal; religious conservative.
- ✓ Always at odds with the other guy...except when they have something in common – hatred, rejection of Christ!

Both think they’re getting to heaven!

How? - Personal works and self efforts. **Bottom line problem: PRIDE!**

It’s why many people will die and go to hell: PRIDE

It’s time to sound the alarm! To warn!

That’s what John is doing here: Sounds the alarm, gives a warning...

That God has expectations of every human being born into this world:
REPENT! & Produce fruit to show that!

Here in Matthew 3:7-12 I want you to see...

Notice 3 things John does here in dealing with these Pharisees and Sadducees:

I. John labels them (v.7)

This group of Pharisees and Sadducees were coming to/for (– for, – the, [article is there]) baptism, WHY?

- Curious?
- Check him out?
- Gain his approval?
- As a show to the people?
- Take over and be part of the moment?

- Whatever the reason, they were wrong, wicked reasons.
 - They were not seeking God’s truth.
 - They were not repentant.
 - They were not interested in changing.
 - And John knew it – he saw right through them, he knew they were the same smug, self-righteous hypocrites...



A. Deceivers – offspring of vipers... the danger of their religious hypocrisy! Like the little desert viper... Jesus warned about them, and called them this: *Matthew 12:34*

B. Labels them with sarcasm (7b) “*who warned you...*” John knew they weren’t fleeing any wrath... they believed they were ok.

II. John challenges them

A. About true repentance (v.8) the marks of a truly repentant heart, to honestly and openly prepare their hearts for the coming Messiah: **BRING FORTH TRUE FRUIT!**

B. About their heritage (v.9)
Your heritage will not get you to heaven!

III. John warns them

A. About coming judgment on unfruitful (v.10)

B. About the significance of the One coming (v.11)

John’s baptism was...

but Christ’s baptism...

Baptism with the Holy Spirit - *Saved*

Baptism with fire, God’s judgment - *Not saved*

C. About God’s expectations – he continues to explain encouragement to believers, warning to unbelievers.

Conclusion:

- The long-awaited Messiah has come...
- And He offers to all the truth of the gospel
- And everyone has a choice, must make a choice:
- Are you wheat? or Are you chaff?
- God gives you opportunities... Jeremiah 8:19-22