

“The Presentation of the Kingdom”

Matthew 3:1-6

You and I are on a path in life:

- Your path in life is carrying you to eternity:
- Who/what determines your path?
 - You?
 - God?
- One day the path ends – and suddenly **eternity!**
- What if this was the last message you ever heard?
- If it was, what would I say to you?
- What I’ve been saying: the whole counsel of God!
- What John the Baptist is saying...

Here in Matthew 3:

- John is preaching, heralding, proclaiming loudly;
- Jesus is coming, the King is coming;
- Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.
- John was preparing the way of the Lord –
- He was announcing and preparing people...
- The same thing that we do today – preparing, preaching: **BECAUSE Jesus IS coming again!!**
- And you and I are on a path... Which one?

The thing that is striking is John...

- As you look at his lifestyle, his birth, his calling, his baptisms...
- You look at his message: Repent (change your mind), confess your sins, the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Get everything out of the way...
- As a road would be cleared, the way prepared, with all obstacles removed for a king.
- So, John is working to remove all those things
- Particularly sin and sin’s dominance. To open the way for the kingdom of God to come... the reality of the king coming...
- And John’s manner, his dress, his message all are done here for an impact! To show the way of truth!

Matthew unfolds these truths in talking about the forerunner, John. I want you to notice some characteristics about John from this passage that will help us understand his purpose:

- I. How he comes (vs.3-4)
 - A. He comes prophesied (v.3)
 - B. His dress and diet (v.4)
- II. What he says (vs.1-2)
 - A. **Preaching** – from _____ – to herald, to proclaim loudly and extensively: the coming of the King.
 - B. **The message** – simple, so simple, one word: Repent
The word means more than regret or sorrow, it means to turn around, to change direction, to change the mind and will, and not just any change – Always a change from wrong to right; away from sin and to righteousness!! (2 Corinthians 7:8-11)
Be converted! Prepare for the King!
- III. The people’s response (vs.5-6)
 - A. **People from all over**
 - B. **Confessing, (repenting) and being baptized.**
Confessing: acknowledging, admitting. No one can ever repent and be forgiven without first confessing.
Baptism: symbolizes the putting off of the old life, and the identification with the new life.

Conclusion:

- If I were to ask your testimony...
- Where would be repentance? When did you repent?
- How was it shown? How was it manifested?
- When did you turn from sin?
- Identify with the king, King Jesus?
- If you have confessed and know you’re born again, have you been biblically baptized?