

Matthew: The Life & Teaching of Jesus the Messiah

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Key Idea: *The herald of the King arrives in the person of the last Old Testament prophet, John the Baptizer.*

Lesson 6 Matt. 3:1-12 / Luke 3:1-16 The Herald of the King (9-21-25)

I. THE WORD OF GOD COMES TO THE LAST OT PROPHET (Lk. 3:1-3a)

A. Historical Accuracy & Credible Testimony: Luke & John's Gospels

1. Luke's point: So that you may know the _____ (Lk.1:4)
2. The Apostle John's point: _____ (John 20:31, 1:19)
3. Matthew records this episode because it f_____ the prophecies of both Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1 and 4:5 that the Lord would send a messenger to h_____. His k_____.

B. John the Baptizer begins his ministry during times were much like that of the Prophet _____

1. The rulers, both civil and ecclesiastical, were _____ (Jn 11:47)
2. There had been no p_____ Word for nearly _____ c_____.

C. John, as a life-long Nazirite, _____ and _____ like an OT prophet.

1. How many miracles did John perform? _____
2. They came from all-over Palestine to h_____ John and to be b_____.
But why? _____

Application: The power of preaching _____

D. The mission was to get the old covenant people r_____ to receive a royal v_____ from the Lord himself (3:4-6; Mal. 3:1f)

1. This was the fulfillment of the angel Gabriel, John's father Zacharias' & Isaiah the prophet's p_____ concerning how _____
2. This royal visitation would bring with it b_____ and not for Israel a_____
but for all h_____ (Luke 3:6, Isaiah 40:5)

Application: The universalism of the Bible _____

II. THE MESSAGE OF THE LAST OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET (Lk. 3:3f)

A. What was the message of the last OT prophet? _____

1. Mountains of pride needed to be _____ and valleys of self-pity _____
2. John's baptism was a sign or token of r_____.
 - a. No one is justified by being b_____.
 - b. No one can truly repent without first being made a_____ by God (see Eph. 2:1)
 - (1) Only Jesus can a_____ for your s_____
 - (2) But there is no s_____ without r_____
3. The Jewish messianic expectation also needed to be c_____.
 - a. The Kingdom was at h_____ because the King was in t_____.

Application: The Kingdom: Future, on hold, in one's heart, or inaugurated and growing?

B. John a _____ genuine disciples, religious groupies, phonies & bigots (cf. Jn 1:24f)

1. Who were the Pharisses and the Sadducees? _____
2. A lesson about snakes and fire: Snakes want to escape the flames but still be _____
2. There is no salvation in _____ or in _____
3. Jews going into the wilderness to baptized implied _____

C. John warned the Old Covenant people in particular the ax was already l_____ at the tree.

III. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?—CONSIDER JOHN’S ANSWER (Lk. 3:10-16)

A. John’s first response was _____ .

1. Practical repentance is always m_____ than feeling s_____
2. True repentance is characterized by metanoia, that is admitting

- (1) God is r_____ and His s_____ just.
- (2) That I am a s_____, a law b_____
- (3) Not simply that I am merely sorry for the c_____ of my sin.
- (4) But that I am sorry to have r_____ and offended God
- (5) And I am determined to a_____ my life, follow J_____ and w_____ in His ways.

3. John’s 3 examples (among others Luke 3:18) hit his hearers in the _____

- Private citizens _____ Tax Collectors _____
- Soldiers _____

B. John’s second response was look for the One who will bring the internal b_____ of the Holy Spirit or . . . your gonna b_____ !

Application: Now is the day of salvation _____ (II Cor. 6:2)