



Elgin Evangelical Free Church - April 7, 2024

John the Baptist . . .

Why is this man called the “greatest” to ever live by Jesus?

Proclaims My Kingdom

Prepares the Way for Me

I. Proclaims My Kingdom – 3:1-4

For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!’” 3:3

A. A message that focuses on Christ

B. A ministry that clears a path for Christ

C. A life that draws attention to Christ

II. Prepares the way for Me – 3:2, 4-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3:2

A. The Call to Repentance

B. The Motive for Repentance

C. The Enemy of Repentance

D. The Revealer of Repentance

Questions to Consider:

1. Does my life reflect the priority of Jesus as King?
2. Have I heralded Jesus in the context of my life and relationships?
3. Have I made it clear that there is no salvation apart from repentance?
4. Is there fruit of repentance in my own life?

Life Group Study Notes
The Kings Herald
Matthew 3:1-12

1. Can you think of someone in our modern era who fits the description of a herald? Who and why?

2. Why is it hard for us to see greatness from God's perspective?

Do you think that you view yourself from man's perspective more often than from God's perspective? What is the danger of this?

3. John's primary message is repentance and a calling to get ready to receive Jesus as king. Do you think this is the same as what you see modeled in contemporary Christian culture? Why?

4. John's life and singular focus on Christ drew people out of their normal context to consider the state of their heart before God. How do you think your life does or does not do this presently?

What needs to change?

5. John prepared the way for people to come to Christ by calling for true repentance. How would you define true repentance?

6. The true and genuine King of Glory is available to you today. How should this motivate our repentance and the way we turn from sin?

7. Religious hypocrisy is the great enemy of true repentance. Give an example of how this keeps us (or anyone) from being part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

8. What are the two fruits of genuine repentance (3:8-12). We must turn away from _____ and turn completely to _____.

9. How do you need to apply this passage to your life and calling to herald the King?