

Matthew, Week 8

Chapter 3: The “John the Baptist Experience,” Part 3

Pastor Jim Kerwin

DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS:

Only a thorough “John the Baptist Experience” lays the groundwork and foundation for Jesus to come – in an individual’s life, to a church, in true revival, and to the Church Universal before Jesus returns. The message of repentance is part and parcel of the preaching of the Gospel throughout the New Testament.

The Challenge: To be able to preach against sin *in cooperation with the Holy Spirit* so that He can bring about conviction in such a way that God can grant repentance and forgiveness.

REPENTANCE: THE NEW TESTAMENT PROCLAMATION:

- 1) John’s message:
 - a. Repent because the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand (Matthew 3:2).
 - b. Bring forth fruit which proves you have repented. Without this good fruit, the axe will be laid to the root of the tree and the tree will be cut down and burned. (vv.8,10)
 - c. A baptism of repentance *for* the forgiveness of sins. (Matthew 3:11, but more clearly Mark 1:4 and Luke 3:3.)
- 2) Jesus’ message:
 - a. Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. (Matthew 4:17) Jesus picked up where John left off. See also Mark 1:14-15.
 - b. “I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32).
 - c. “Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3,5).
 - d. There is joy in heaven over a sinner who repents (Luke 15:5,7, and 19-24).
 - e. How Jesus interpreted the prophecies of the Old Testament: “...that repentance **for** forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).
 - f. Even (especially?) from Heaven, Jesus still commands repentance: Revelation 2:5,16,21,22; 3:3,19.
- 3) The Apostles’ message: A “foundation of repentance” (Hebrews 6:1)
 - a. Their first preaching assignment: “That men should repent” (Mark 6:12).
 - b. “Repent...and be baptized...for the forgiveness of your sins...” (Peter, Acts 2:38)

- c. "...repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away..." (Peter, Acts 3:19)
- d. "...repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you" (Peter, Acts 8:22).
- e. "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, **God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because** He has fixed a day in which **He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed**, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Paul, Acts 17:30-31).
- f. Part of Paul's ongoing messages was "**solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance** toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).
- g. From the time of his conversion, Paul "kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, **that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance**" (Acts 26:20).

GOD GRANTS REPENTANCE AS A GIFT

- 1) "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, **to grant repentance** to Israel, and forgiveness of sins" (Acts 5:31).
- 2) When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has **granted** to the Gentiles also the **repentance** that leads to life" (Acts 11:8).
- 3) Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that **the kindness of God leads you to repentance?** (Romans 2:4)
- 4) The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, **with gentleness correcting** those who are in opposition, if **perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth**, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will (2 Timothy 2:24-26).
- 5) For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, **it is impossible to renew them again to repentance**, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame (Hebrews 6:4-6).
- 6) See to it that no one **comes short of the grace of God**; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for **he found no place for repentance**, though he sought for it with tears (Hebrews 12:15-17).