

Prepare the Way of the LORD

Matthew 3:1-12

Behold the King



The Kingdom Has Come Near

1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,

2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Matthew 3:1-2 (NASB)



Prepare the Way of the LORD

**3 For this is the one referred to by
Isaiah the prophet when he said,
“THE VOICE OF ONE CALLING OUT IN THE
WILDERNESS,
‘PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’”**

Matthew 3:3 (NASB)



A Highway for Our God

**3 The voice of one calling out,
“Clear the way for the LORD in the
wilderness;
Make straight in the desert a highway for
our God.**

**4 Let every valley be lifted up,
And every mountain and hill be made low;
And let the uneven ground become a plain,
And the rugged terrain a broad valley;**

Isaiah 40:3-4 (NASB)



The Glory of the LORD

**5 Then the glory of the LORD will be
revealed,
And all flesh will see it together;
For the mouth of the LORD has
spoken.”**

Isaiah 40:5 (NASB)



God's Messenger in the Wilderness

4 Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Matthew 3:4 (NASB)



Confessing Their Sins

5 At that time Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan;

6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

Matthew 3:5-6 (NASB)



Believe in Jesus

4 Paul said, “John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

Acts 19:4 (NASB)



Fruit Consistent with Repentance

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance;

Matthew 3:7-8 (NASB)



Ancestry Can't Remove Guilt

9 and do not assume that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you that God is able, from these stones, to raise up children for Abraham.

10 And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is being cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 3:9-10 (NASB)



Share with Those in Need

10 And the crowds were questioning him, saying, "Then what are we to do?"

11 And he would answer and say to them, "The one who has two tunics is to share with the one who has none; and the one who has food is to do likewise."

Luke 3:10-11 (NASB)



Deal Honestly with People

12 Now even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what are we to do?"

13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to."

Luke 3:12-13 (NASB)



Use Your Position Rightly

14 And soldiers also were questioning him, saying, "What are we to do, we as well?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone, nor harass anyone, and be content with your wages."

Luke 3:14 (NASB)



He Is Mightier Than I

11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Matthew 3:11 (NASB)



Saved According to His Mercy

4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:4-5 (NASB)



Through Jesus Christ Our Savior

6 whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:6-7 (NASB)



He Will Gather His Wheat

12 His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Matthew 3:12 (NASB)



Prepare the Way of the LORD

Turn from sin.

Trust the King.

Bear the fruit of repentance.

