

“Pursuing a Life Fit for *the King*”

Dec. 5, 2004 * St. Andrew's Church * Matt 3:1-12 * David Brannen

Matthew 3:1-4 - In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea ²- and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” ³- This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” ⁴- John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist (see 2 Kings 1:8). His food was locusts and wild honey.

1. Adjust your life to the King’s _____.

Matthew 3:1 - (John’s message was) ...“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Repent = meta (change) + noia (mind) – To change your life as a result of a complete change of mind and attitude regarding sin and righteousness.

Prov. 23:7b (GN) – “What he (a person) thinks is what he really is.”

Matthew 3: 5 - People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

Luke 3:12, 14 – ¹²- “Tax collectors also came... ¹⁴ “soldiers asked ...

Matthew 3:7 - (John) saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing

Concerning the baptism for repentance...

- **no one so _____ that he couldn’t receive it**
- **no one so _____ that he didn’t need it**

Romans 3:10 - ...“There is no one righteous, not even one.

Matthew 3:6 - ⁶- Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

2. Go to the only _____ available for change.

Matthew 3:11 - “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

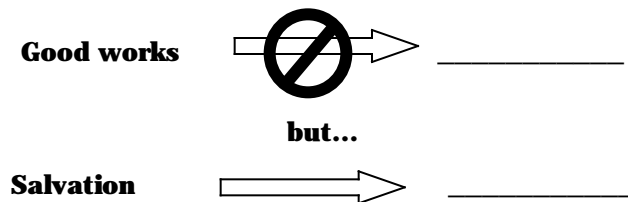
-**Ezekiel 36: 27** – (God says) ...I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Matthew 11:11a (NLT) – (Jesus said) “I assure you, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist.

2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

The single biggest obstacle to spiritual growth in my life right now is _____.

Matthew 3:7-9 - ⁷- ... (John) said to (the Pharisees and Sadducees): “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸- Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹- And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.



3. Don’t forget: There will be a _____.

Matthew 3:10, 11b-12 - ¹⁰- The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire...He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²- His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

-**Luke 3:17-18** - ¹⁷- ... (Jesus) will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸- And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the **good news** to them.

Matthew 1:21 - (the angel said to Joseph)... “you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Romans 2:4b (NCV) - ... God is kind to you so you will change your hearts and lives.