

## John The Baptist Baptizes

### **Matthew 3:5-10**

Intro:

- A. **The mission of John.**
  - 1. He was to prepare people for the coming of Messiah or the anointed one.
  - 2. He was to make His path straight.
- B. **The method of John. How to do it?**
  - 1. John did it by preaching.
  - 2. He did it by immersing the repentant.
  - 3. Did it work? Should John have done more?
  - 4. He was neither to make a plan, nor to set goals.

#### I. The Response Of The People.

- A. **"Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all the region round about Jordan." V.5**
  - 1. εκπορευομαι = "to go out", "to come out."  
The imperfect tense shows that people were continually coming out to hear John.
  - 2. region round about = περιχωρος = "around a place," "adjacent", "neighboring".
  - 3. Many people came. This is hyperbole and it indicates the general mood of those who witnessed it.
- B. **"And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins." V.6**
  - 1. baptized = βαπτίζω = "to dip under."  
Baptism signifies the death of the old and a putting on of the new.
  - 2. confessing = εξομολογεομαι = "to acknowledge," "to agree to"
  - 3. They "repented" that is they changed their minds about sin, about what it is and what it does. They acknowledged God was right and they were wrong by being dipped into eh Jordan River.
- C. **John and the religious leaders. V.7a**
  - 1. The Pharisees and Sadducees came.
  - 2. They were critical observers.



D. **"...O generation of vipers..."**

1. generation = γεννημα = "that which is produced or born"
2. vipers = εχιδνα = 2-5 feet in length, an inch thick, yellowish, speckled with long brown spots and is deadly poisonous, fig. = cunning and malignant. The Pharisees and Sadducees were produced by vipers. This was not a statement taken from Dale Carnegie.
3. **"who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"**
  1. warned = υποδεικνυμι = "to point out privately with the finger," "to give to understand."
  2. flee = φευγω = "to take to flight", "to run"
  3. wrath = οργη = "to kill", "to take revenge"
  4. to come = μελλω = "to be about to" The entire statement pictures snakes fleeing a field that is put to the harvest!
  5. The answer is, God!

E. **"Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." V.8**

1. bring forth = ποιω = "to make," "to form", "to bring about", "to do". This has the idea of continuing to do rather than of a completed action.
2. fruits = καρπος = "that which is ripe", "result."
3. meet = αξιος = "worthy," "of equal value," "deserving of", here works equal to and worthy of your act of repentance.

II. The Excuse Of The Pharisees And Sadducees.

A. **"And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father..." v.9**

1. think not = δοκω = "to appear", "then to be of opinion", "to form an estimate".
2. "And don't think you can get by with saying" - Nor

3. "Abraham is our ancestor" - TCNT
  4. "And don't suppose that you are to say..."
- B. **"...for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham."**
1. say = λεγω = "to lay together" "to think", to command, the statement of the Scriptures.
  2. able = δυναμαι = "to have the power"
  3. stones = λιθος =
  4. raise up = εγειρω = "to cause to rise up" "to awaken", "wake up". These stones are sleeping, I can awaken them and they will be descendants of Abraham.
  5. They had been taught that anyone who had Abraham in their genealogy could call upon him when confronted with gehenna and they would be delivered.
  6. Do you think you can, "Just say Jesus."  
Matthew 7:21

### III. The Time Of Judgment Had Come.

- A. **"And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: v.10"**
1. "The axe is now ready to strike..." - Beck
  2. root = ριζα = "a root", "the life sustainer"
  3. This is a visible sign of intent to destroy the tree.
- B. **"...therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down,"**
1. therefore = "so that," there is purpose
  2. every = πας = "of several, every"
  3. bringeth = ποιεω = "to form."
  4. hewn down = εκκοπτω = "to cut down," "to cut out," "as a surgeon does," "to destroy."
- C. **"and cast into the fire."**
1. "something that is always true"
  2. When the first stroke is made and the tree shakes under the blow, it is too late to produce fruit.

3. It was time to start and days would mean that the opportunity to repent was over.  
The Baptism Of Jesus

**Matthew 3:11-17**

Intro:

- A. **John preached God's message.**
    1. "Repent ye!"
    2. "For the kingdom of God is at hand."
  - B. **People came to hear John preach.**
    1. Sinners and publicans received his message.
    2. Pharisees and Sadducees came to see him.
    3. **"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee..." v.13**
- I. John Preached Of, "He That Cometh After Me..."
- A. **"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance."**
    1. "I indeed am immersing you in water" - Rhm
    2. "as a sign of your repentance." - Phi
  - B. **"but he that cometh after me is..."**
    1. mightier = ισχυροτερος = comparative of ισχυρος = physically strong, naturally powerful.
    2. "He" is more worthy"
    3. bear = βασταζω = "to pick up and to carry"  
This was the lowly task of the body-slave.
  - C. **"he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."**
    1. baptize = immerse
    2. with = εν = "in"
    3. "he will immerse you in Holy Spirit and fire" - Rhm
    4. This probably has reference to the day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-4. It could also refer to the suffering of all those who would become His disciples.
  - D. **"whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor,"**

1. fan = πτυον = winnowing shovel, used to throw the threshed grain into the air.
2. purge = διακαθαριζω = "to totally cleanse"
3. "to completely winnow the entire area."

E. **"and gather his wheat into the garner;**

1. "and store his grain in the barn." - TCNT
2. This has reference to those who trust in him.

F. **"but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."**

1. burn up = κατακαιω = "to burn down, as in a sacrifice"
2. unquenchable = ασβεστος = "that which cannot be put out until it has consumed all that upon which it feeds." If this has reference to the eternal soul then it will indeed be forever.

II. Then Cometh Jesus... Unto John. Vs.13-17

A. **Jesus came from Galilee to Jordan. V.13**

1. Most teachers say it was 60 miles.
2. Jesus did not send for John
3. John did not go in search of Jesus.

B. **John knew the superiority of Jesus. v.14**

1. forbad = διακωλυω = "to prevent"
2. John believed himself unworthy to perform the ritual on Jesus.
3. "I need what you have more than you need what I have."

C. **"And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now:" v.15a**

1. answering = αποκρινομαι = "to answer"
2. suffer = αφημι = "to let go from one's self, dismiss, let pass, permit"
3. "Let it be so for the present..." - TCNT

D. **"...for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." V.15b**

1. becometh = πρεπω = "it is fitting," "it suits"
2. fulfill = πληρωω = "to fill up"