

Matthew 3 Sermon Notes

Opening

- Announcements
- Subject: repentance, obedience

John the Baptist

- Preparing for Jesus
 - References *Isaiah 40:3*
- Locusts and wild honey
 - Greek word dispute
 - Locust, Carob, or rolls
- Garment of camel hair
 - Camels' fine undercoat
 - Cashmere softness
 - Modern day luxury item
 - May not have been luxury during Matthew 2
 - *Matthew 11:7-8* – likely not very soft
 - Significance
 - *Matthew 11:11-15* - v14
 - Jesus calls John Elijah
 - Will look more later
 - *2 Kings 1:5-8*
 - King Ahaziah injured
 - Comparison of John and Elijah
 - *2 Kings 2:6-8* -v8
 - Using the coat
 - *Zechariah 13:4-5*
 - Unique coats commonplace
 - *1 Kings 19:19-21*
 - Elisha understood the meaning
 - *2 Kings 2:11-14*
 - Elisha took the cloak; a statement
 - Deliberate fashion statement; not mindless quirkiness

The Baptisms & Jesus

- 3 Baptisms mentioned
 - Water, Spirit, Fire
- Water Baptism
 - Water baptism does not save you
 - *Mark 16:16*
 - *Acts 2:38*
 - About spiritual baptism; not water
 - Outward signs
 - Galatians
 - Paul chastises making it a salvation issue
- Spirit Baptism
 - Needs its own sermon
 - When you surrender your life to God and follow Jesus
 - Holy Spirit is more complicated than most realize
- Water Baptism continued
 - Misunderstood symbolism
 - Not messiah death and resurrection
 - We die to the world...
 - This is more akin to Spiritual Baptism
 - People didn't understand Jesus' death yet
 - They had a different reason
 - V11 - "Baptize for repentance"
 - Ritual cleanness
 - To come to God
 - *Leviticus chapters 12-15*
 - Requires a priest
 - John
 - Shows dedication and obedience to God
 - Jesus' decision
 - *Hebrews 8:1-6*
 - Jesus of Judah, not Levi
 - A priest later
 - Must follow the Law
 - Showing dedication to his Father
 - Conversation contextualized

- John focused on Spirit
 - Jesus says “not yet”
 - Jesus will be one to baptize later spiritually
 - Needed an earthly priest
- Fire Baptism
 - Like Spiritual, best for another time
 - Judgment
 - *1 Corinthians 3:11-15*
 - *2 Corinthians 5:10*
 - Speaking of judgment...

Children of Abraham

- Bear fruit in keeping with repentance
 - A command to change and work
- “We have Abraham as our father”
 - Ancient sentiment still prevalent today
 - Saved for sake of bloodline?
- Jesus echoed John’s message
 - *Matthew 8:10-12*
 - The centurion
 - No free ride
 - *John 8:34-47*
 - Preaching in the temple
 - Slave to sin; not doing Abraham’s works
 - The devil’s children
- This is for today
 - “I have Jesus” and “He will forgive me”
 - A free pass to sin? To live however you want?
 - Not forgiven unconditionally
 - *Mark 11:25-26*
 - Quick example
 - *Matthew 7:15-23*
 - Bear fruit
 - Grand gestures not enough
 - Day-to-day obedience
 - You’re saved, you have Jesus

- Now what?
 - Bear fruit...
 - *John 14:15*