

01-26-14

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-3

Title: John the Baptist

Psalm 1

How is your reading going?

Matthew presents Jesus as King b/c of

His genealogy

His miraculous birth

The worship of the magi

The fulfilled prophesy

Matthew 3 – He has a King's herald

- *Now in those days*

Actually have quite a span of time between chapter 2 and 3

We just read the different prophesies around Jesus' birth

Now we jump ahead about 30 years

Jesus is a man of around 30, as is John

They were born 6 months apart

Matthew's letting us know we just jumped ahead

Jumped about 30 years

Both of these men are grown...

Now in those days, when He was living in Nazareth...

Jesus had been living in basic unimportance

We have no record of anything after returning to Nazareth

Except one trip to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12

Now John begins to herald...

John begins to announce the nearness of the kingdom

John's birth

Luke 1 tells us events around John's birth

Angel came to his dad – Zechariah while he was in the temple

Said he and his wife Elizabeth would have a baby

Elderly couple, never had any kids
This baby would be great...
This baby won't drink wine or strong drink...
This baby would be filled w/ the Holy Spirit even from the womb
This baby will be named John
 John means God's gracious gift/ Jehovah graciously gave
 His name is John

Luke 1:16-17

When Zachariah was holding his little boy he said

Luke 1:76-79

What an unusual child

 Filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb
 Great in the sight of the Lord
 Turning many to righteousness
 Living his entire life in the desert until the right
 moment when he would step out and show himself
 to the people and herald the arrival of the King

Matthew 11:11

Fitting – the greatest man ever to live is the herald for the King of all kings

 And, if the greatest man that ever lived is just a herald...
 John prepared the way for Jesus' arrival
 He was the herald of the King...

In ancient times before a king came to visit

 Sent certain servants ahead
 Two jobs they had to do
 Announce that the king was coming
 Get the road ready for his arrival
 To proclaim and prepare

No surprises when the king arrives

 So the people there know that he's coming, know who he
 is, know why he's coming etc...
 No major bumps in the road – hurt the king

John 1:19-23

John said he wasn't Elijah

But came in the spirit and power of Elijah

He was the herald sent to announce the coming of the King

Let's go back to Matthew chapter 1

Chapter 1, verse 1

Now turn back one page

That one page is actually 400 years

400 years of silence

What was the last thing the Jews heard from God?

Malachi 4:5-6

The last word...

Burning in the ears of the Jews for 400 years...

Silence after that

He will prepare the way for the King

Luke 1:17

17 "It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

John is this Elijah...

He comes in the spirit and power of Elijah

During Passover celebrations, still today

Jews still set a place for Elijah

In the ceremony a child goes and opens the door

To see if Elijah is there

Problem is – Elijah has already come

John the Baptist is the fulfillment

Matthew 17:10-13

Repent

The word preach in v. 1 – *kerusso* in Greek

Means to herald, public crier

John was heralding – announcing, preaching

For all to hear

What was he preaching?

- 2 "Repent,

His message, a short one

Not the case w/ all preachers ☺

Repent for the kingdom is nearly here

It's imminent, it's the next thing

John was heralding the king and what did he herald?

He didn't get the physical roads ready

He was getting the hearts of the people ready

What did he do to get things ready, what did he say?

Repent

He preached repentance

John was preparing the way for the King

What did he say? Repent

In order to be ready for the King...

In order to receive the King...

What did you have to do?

Repent...

Before coming to the King sin must be dealt w/

Interesting to note – what was Jesus' message?

Matthew 4:17

Same thing...

Peter's message on the day of Pentecost

Acts 2:38

Repent in Greek is *metanio*

Doesn't necessarily mean sorrow, sorrowful

Rather, change of direction, turning around

Change your mind, change your will

Turn from sin to holiness

World War II produced many heroes. One was Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific.

One day while on a mission, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank. Unable to complete his mission, he turned around and headed back for the aircraft carrier. As he headed back, he saw a squadron of Japanese Zeroes heading straight for the American fleet. All the American fighters were out on a sortie, leaving the fleet virtually defenseless.

He dove into the formation of Japanese planes in a desperate move to divert them away from the fleet. After a frightening air battle, the Japanese airplanes broke off their assault on the fleet. Butch O'Hare's tattered fighter limped back to the carrier. He was recognized as a hero and given one of the nation's highest military honors. O'Hare International Airport in Chicago is named after him.

Some years earlier, there was a man in Chicago called Easy Eddie. In those days, Al Capone virtually owned the city. Capone's mob was involved in bootlegging booze, murder, and prostitution. Easy Eddie was Al Capone's lawyer and kept Big Al out of jail. In return, Easy Eddie earned big money and lived like a king on an estate so large it filled an entire city block.

But Easy Eddie had one soft spot—a son whom he loved dearly. Eddie saw that his son had the best of everything: clothes, cars, and a good education. Despite Eddie's involvement with the mob, he tried to teach his son right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was.

But there were two things Eddie could not give his son—a good name and a good example. Deciding that giving his son these two things was more important than lavishing him with riches, Eddie had to rectify the wrong he had done. He went to the authorities and told them the truth about Al Capone.

Easy Eddie eventually testified in court against Al Capone and the mob. He knew the cost would be great, but he wanted to be an example to his son and leave him with a good name.

Within a year of testifying against the Mob, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago street. He had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer at the greatest price he would ever pay.

What do these stories have to do with one another? Butch O'Hare was Easy Eddie's son.

Think about that...

We hear of people saying repent, repent
Kinda put them up there w/ crazy people
Out on the street corner...

Remember, John was the greatest man ever to live
He was out in the wilderness saying

Change your mind, change your ways
Turn from sin, turn to holiness
Turn from the mob, helping them
Do what is right...

Change your mind – stop thinking the way you are
Change from sin, change to holiness
Whole different light...

John wasn't saying to just feel sorry for your sin

He was saying to change from sin to holiness

You won't be ready for the King w/o this change
You can never receive the King w/o this change
W/o this conversion

The King is coming you've got to make a 180

Remember he's talking to Jews, they thought they had it

They were the descendants of Abraham
They were following the Law, they thought
They've got to change direction
They're going the wrong way

Remember what Jesus said to Nicodemus – John 3

Religious guy that came to Him at night

You've got to be born again, start all over, from scratch
We're talking total change of direction

John said – the King is coming

Change everything, turn around 180 degrees

The King wants nothing less than total conversion

There is deep sorrow associated w/ this change

Sorrow for past sin

Change is most important part

A change from sin to holiness

A change that affected the mind, the will and the emotions

We're taking radical change

Radical turn around

Radical transformation

A complete conversion

- *...for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Why should they repent?

Why should they make this total turn around?

B/c the kingdom of heaven is at hand

The King and His kingdom are at hand

Think about this for a minute

Put yourself in the place of the Jews...

They had been waiting, waiting 400 years

Waiting for the Messiah

Now the Herald is here

Announcing the Messiah

And what does he say?

Not, come on in, we're throwing out the Romans

This is it, come on in...

He says...

Change, change your way, your will, your actions

Turn around, you're going the wrong way

Turn from sin, turn to holiness

Should've been good news – the King is here...

First is the bad news – you're not ready

You've got to make a 180 degree turn around

Be ready

Matthew 3:3

Isaiah 40:3-5

Isaiah had just given 39 chapters of judgment

Then he begins chapter 40 w/

Isaiah 40:1-2

Make His paths straight – get the road ready for Him

How do we know Jesus truly is King?

Prophecy not only foretells His birth...

Prophecy foretells His herald

Isaiah the prophet wrote this

It is fulfilled in John the Baptist

A dirt road wasn't being smoothed

John is preparing entrance into people's hearts

Getting their hearts ready

How do you prepare to receive a visit from this King?

You have to get your heart right...

You have to repent, change your mind, turn from sin

Conclusion:

As we wrap this up today...

What did the Jews have to turn from?

What did they need to repent of?

They had placed their hope in their ancestry, their lineage

They were children of Abraham after all...

They had placed their hope in ritual

If they followed all the rules...

Their King was their only hope

They needed to turn from themselves

Their pride and arrogance that they could come to
the King on their own

We're not children of Abraham
We don't have to follow the law
What do we need to repent of?
We need to turn from ourselves
Jesus, the King is our only hope

We cannot come to Him on our own...
We need to repent, turn from our own efforts
Make a 180 degree turn like Easy Eddie – a total change, at
whatever the cost...
Is reading our Bible enough
Is going to church, Bible Study enough
Is wearing the right clothes...

Coming to the King, to the Lord Jesus with nothing
He is our only hope
We have to drop everything, turn around
Turn to Him
Repentance is the only way

As we walk w/ Him it continues to be the only way
It is by trusting in Him alone that we are saved
By trusting in Him alone that we grow and walk w/ Him

Benediction:

2 Corinthians 7:10

*10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a
repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of
the world produces death.*

Sermon outline
01-26-14
Matthew 3

John's b_____

R_____

Be r_____