

Words for Study and Ideas
to think About

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What is Repentance?

Repentance: remorse for a sin or wrong doing
Repent: To feel sorry, to regret

What make us feel sorry?

Greek: Repent - "Change of Heart" - metanoia, met-an'-oy-ah;
(subj.) compunction - deep remorse (for guilt, including reformation); by implied reversal (of [another's] decision):-- repentance. (From Strongs)

How can we change our heart?

Is there a difference between feeling sorry and changing your heart?

What did John mean when he told the Pharisees and Sadducees, "Show Proof that you have changed your hearts"?

Deep Thought: We have not repented until we have chosen to think, feel and do differently about that which has made us sorry.

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A Study of Matthew

Matthew 3:1-12

Lesson 2

Assignment for next Week — Read Matthew 3:13-17

Memory Verse — Matthew 3:1-2

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Christ. John's and Jesus' mothers were cousins and their children were born six months apart. It was said of John before his birth that "He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will walk before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the upright, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people." John preached of repentance and a change of heart; however, not all heard John's words with eagerness or sincerity.

Some might have called John a trouble maker like Ahab called Elijah a trouble maker. Ahab said to Elijah, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" (I Kings 17:17) And Elijah answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." (I Kings 17:18). Many times we may blame others for our troubles when we have really caused our own troubles. One thing that we need to remember is that all actions have consequences.

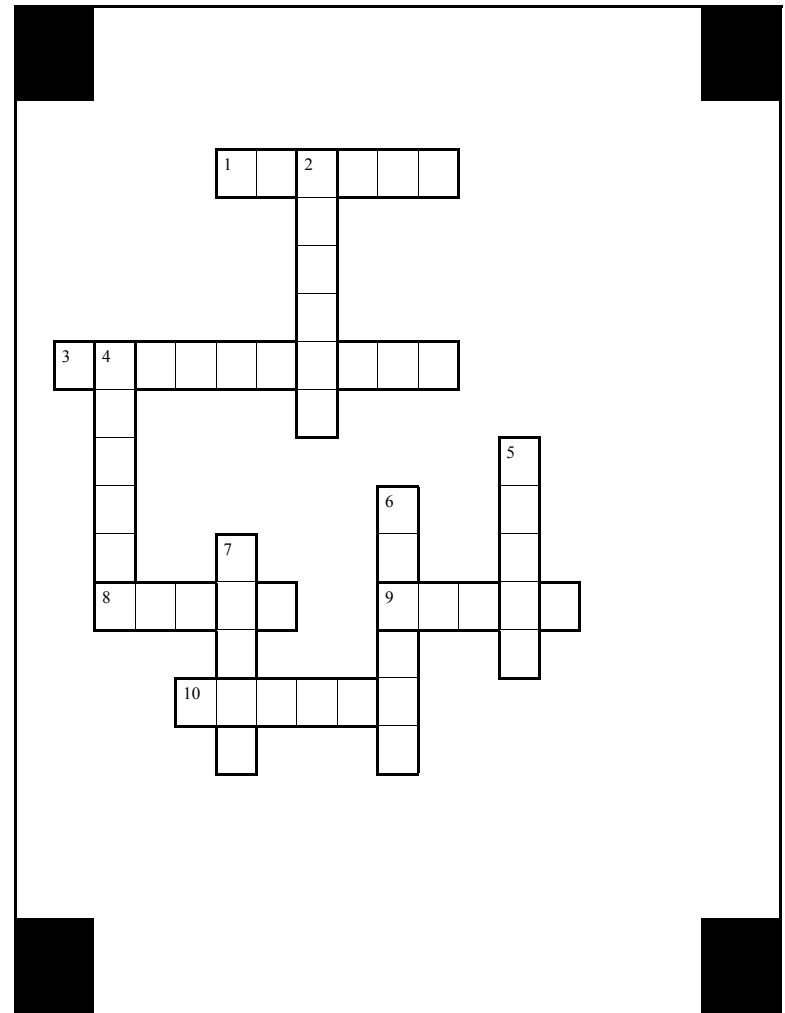
When we look at Elijah we see his importance in bringing Israel back to God, and putting Baal out. When Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal and put them to shame he showed the power of God and called Israel back to God. In the same sense John called Israel back to God. Jesus said of Israel, "Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people

honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”(Mark 7:6-9) John came to awaken the people to hear the words of the Christ. The people had let traditions become their law to the point that they were disregarding God’s law. We too must watch that we do not follow that same path.

The thrust of John’s message was of a Change of Heart. The heart is so critical in the new covenant. The old law was a list of commandments of which Paul said, “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”(Romans 3:20) No man could be saved by the Law, because all fell short. However, in Jesus Christ all can be made pure in the sight of God. Christ is our Righteousness and demands that we change our hearts and seek to live for him. Our works should manifest this change. To say that we believe is not enough. James said, show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works. Does it not make since that our faith should manifest itself in works. Did not Paul write that we had been created in Christ Jesus for good works.(Ephesians 2:10) We each need to examine our hearts. Do we love God? Do our works manifest our love? Even John the Baptist spoke of this when he said “Every tree not bearing good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

All people are going to bear some type of fruit. Christ said we will be known by our fruit and we should want to bring forth good fruit. We know that the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness,

W Answer the Questions on Page
14 CROSS to fill in the Puzzle.
R



Cross Word Fun for Learning

Across

1. People came from all about to be baptized of John in the _____ River. (3:5-6)
3. John was preaching in the _____ of Judea.(3:1)
8. To repent means to change ones _____.
9. John's raiment was made from this animals hair.(3:4)
10. John called the Pharisees and Sadducees a generation of these.(3:7)

Down

2. John came preaching telling the people to _____.(3:1-2)
4. John was the one spoken to come by the prophet _____.(3:3)
5. John baptized with _____(3:11)
6. John ate _____ and wild honey.(3:4)
7. Every tree that bringeth not forth good _____ is hewn down.(3:10)

Lesson 1 - Across - 2.Egypt, 5.Jerusalem, 6.Dream, 8. Rachel, 9. Immanuel, 11.David, 12.two - Down - 1. Jesus, 3.Bethlehem, 4. Herod, 7. Mary, 10. Nazareth

What is repentance? Write your definition below.

goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Are those in us? One of the most challenging things to do is self examination. Many times we may not be able to judge ourselves the way we need to, but if we will look at our works we should be able to tell. Do we cause mischief and trouble everywhere we go or do we bring joy, peace and happiness? What are our motives – do we do things out of love or do we do things out of hate, envy, and selfishness.

John sought to awaken this people to prepare their heart to hear the word of the Lord. John taught them only the basics for the new beginning and John preached that his teachings were not the end but only the beginning. John said that one mightier was to come after him. John spoke that his baptism was of water, but the one who was coming would baptize with both fire and the Holy Spirit. After this time we do not read very much about John, but only of Christ. John knew his role and was willing to do it and to let the Savior have the preeminence. We to need to let Jesus have the preeminence in our lives.

Scripture Search

Where do you find the prophecy quoted of Isaiah in Matthew 3:3?

Discussion Questions

1. Who was Elijah?
2. Who was Isaiah?
3. Who was John the Baptist?
4. What is proof that one has changed their heart?
5. Who are Abraham's Children today?

6. Was John's message the final message to man?
7. What kinds of baptism were going to come with the messiah? What did they represent?

Match the Event to the Scripture

a.3:1-2 b.3:3 c.3:4
 d.3:5-6 e.3:8 f.3:9
 g.3:10 h.3:11 i.3:12

- _____ 1. John said that he baptized with water, but one came after him who was mightier than he who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and Fire.
- _____ 2. John came preaching that the kingdom was near saying, "Change your hearts, for Heaven's Kingdom has drawn near."
- _____ 3. John asked the Pharisees and Sadducees to show proof that they had changed their hearts.
- _____ 4. John's clothes were made of Camel's hair and he wore a leather belt.
- _____ 5. John was the one prophesied by Isaiah who would "Prepare the Lord's way. Make his paths straight."
- _____ 6. Every tree not bringing forth good fruit is hewn down and burnt.
- _____ 7. All Jerusalem and Judea went out to John being baptized of him and confessing their sins.
- _____ 8. It was said of the Lord that he would gather his wheat into the barn, but the straw he will burn with unquenchable fire.
- _____ 9. John warned the Pharisees and Sadducees not to trust in being the physical children of Abraham.