

³ A VOICE CRIES:

“IN THE WILDERNESS PREPARE THE WAY
OF THE LORD;
MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE DESERT A
HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD.

ISAIAH 40:3



MATTHEW 3:1-12

An Unexpected Preacher





John 13:34–35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35



Romans 15:7

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7



Ephesians 2:19

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

Ephesians 2:19-21



Matthew 3:1-12

¹ IN THOSE DAYS JOHN THE BAPTIST CAME PREACHING IN THE WILDERNESS OF JUDEA, ² “REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.” ³ FOR THIS IS HE WHO WAS SPOKEN OF BY THE PROPHET ISAIAH WHEN HE SAID, “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.’”

⁴ NOW JOHN WORE A GARMENT OF CAMEL’S HAIR AND A LEATHER BELT AROUND HIS WAIST, AND HIS FOOD WAS LOCUSTS AND WILD HONEY. ⁵ THEN JERUSALEM AND ALL JUDEA AND ALL THE REGION ABOUT THE JORDAN WERE GOING OUT TO HIM, ⁶ AND THEY WERE BAPTIZED BY HIM IN THE RIVER JORDAN, CONFESSING THEIR SINS.

Matthew 3:1-12

⁷ BUT WHEN HE SAW MANY OF THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES COMING TO HIS BAPTISM, HE SAID TO THEM, “YOU BROOD OF VIPERS! WHO WARNED YOU TO FLEE FROM THE WRATH TO COME? ⁸ BEAR FRUIT IN KEEPING WITH REPENTANCE. ⁹ AND DO NOT PRESUME TO SAY TO YOURSELVES, WE HAVE ABRAHAM AS OUR FATHER,’ FOR I TELL YOU, GOD IS ABLE FROM THESE STONES TO RAISE UP CHILDREN FOR ABRAHAM. ¹⁰ EVEN NOW THE AXE IS LAID TO THE ROOT OF THE TREES. EVERY TREE THEREFORE THAT DOES NOT BEAR GOOD FRUIT IS CUT DOWN AND THROWN INTO THE FIRE. ¹¹ “I BAPTIZE YOU WITH WATER FOR REPENTANCE, BUT HE WHO IS COMING AFTER ME IS MIGHTIER THAN I, WHOSE SANDALS I AM NOT WORTHY TO CARRY. HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE. ¹² HIS WINNOWING FORK IS IN HIS HAND, AND HE WILL CLEAR HIS THRESHING FLOOR AND GATHER HIS WHEAT INTO THE BARN, BUT THE CHAFF HE WILL BURN WITH UNQUENCHABLE FIRE.”
MATTHEW 3:1-12



John the Baptist



John the Baptist

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- The second most influential person in the Gospels
 - Son of a priest (Zechariah)
 - Cousin to Jesus
 - Birth was foretold by an Angel of the Lord.
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A voice cries in the wilderness prepares the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Isaiah 40:3

- The Angel Gabriel tells Zechariah that John “will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah”
- Wore camel skins for clothes
- Ate wild honey and locusts for his food

REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NEAR!

- A bold talker, John did not hold back. Regardless of the audience.
- Told the Pharisees and Sadducees, “you brood of vipers” and “God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham”
- John is warning them they are neither special, nor are they keeping God’s law correctly.

**Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees.
Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruits
is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

Matthew 3:10-12

- Jesus echoes the same thought in John 15
- “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. John 15:1-6

Be Fruitful

- Jesus, like John before Him, tells his audience to be fruitful, to bear good fruit for the Kingdom of God.
- In a vineyard or orchard, if a tree does not bear fruit or bears bad fruit, it is chopped down.
- We will be seen by the fruit we bear.

Fruits of the Spirit

- We will be seen by the fruit we bear.
- Remember the Fruits of the Spirit we discussed
- It should be evident in our lives that Jesus is THE driving factor.

The need for Jesus

- John is foreshadowing the need for Jesus. It is his purpose.
- He is the herald, the one who prepares the way.
- PEOPLE, PEOPLE, PEOPLE!

The Need for Jesus

- John is getting the attention of the people.
- Tells his audience that Jesus is coming.
- Telling about Jesus' greatness, power, and divinity.
- Preparing the stage for the real star of the show to arrive.

Three Thoughts to Remember

1. God can, has, and will use the most unexpected people to bring His message and will to His people.
2. We need Jesus
3. When we are in Jesus, Jesus is in us and we should be bearing fruit that proves that.



What kind of fruit do you bear?