



## #2 Paving the Way for the King

### Matthew 3

#### THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

**Matthew 3:1** *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>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.’”*

1. John’s Powerful Message: **REPENT!** 3:1-2
2. John’s Prophesied Mission: **PREPARE THE WAY** 3:3
3. John’s Prophetic Ministry 3:4-12
  - A. He looked like a **PROPHET**
  - B. He came in the spirit and power of the prophet **ELIJAH**
  - C. Like all prophets, he demanded **LIFE-CHANGE**
  - D. Like the prophets, he exposed **WRONG THINKING**
- E. Like the prophets, he deflected all attention to **GOD**
- F. Like the prophets, he proclaimed the coming **SEPARATION** and judgment

#### MythBusting...

RELIGIOUS SMUGNESS: *I’m very religious, so I don’t need to repent*

FAKE REPENTANCE: *I can be genuinely repentant without really changing my life*

FALSE SECURITY: *I’m good with God because of my godly heritage*

MISGUIDED FAITH: *At the judgment I believe I will be saved from God’s wrath even if my life on earth didn’t bear any good fruit*

#### THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

**Matthew 3:13** *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*

#### JESUS’ BAPTISM SHOWS US...

1. Jesus was **HUMBLE**
2. **BAPTISM** is rich in significance and importance
3. The Father was pleased with Jesus not based on His Performance, but based on His **IDENTITY**
4. A Secure Identity clarifies and fuels **MISSION!**

Applications...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The Message I believe the Lord is speaking to me today is:

My Response to what I’m hearing from Him is:

#### Family Discussion

1. Mom and Dad, tell your kids that you love them and what pleases you about them.
2. John the Baptist said that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Talk as a family about the Gospel, how Jesus takes away our sin.
3. If you have been baptized, share with your family about your baptism experience.