



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



Matthew 3:1–3

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.’”



Matthew 3:4–6

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.



Repentance is a radical transformation of the entire person, a fundamental turnaround involving mind and action and including overtones of grief, which results in “fruit in keeping with repentance.” Of course, all this assumes that man’s actions are fundamentally off course and need radical change.

— Don Carson



1. We're numb to the nearness of God (3:1–2)

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1. We're numb to the nearness of God (3:1–2)

Luke 1:80: And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.



2. We procrastinate what God says to prioritize (3:3)

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.’”



2. We procrastinate what God says to prioritize (3:3)

Isaiah 40:3: A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”



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Isaiah 40:4

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.



3. We've normalized our personal and cultural idols (3:4)

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.



3. We've normalized our personal and cultural idols (3:4)

2 Kings 1:7–8: ⁷ He said to them, “What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?” ⁸ They answered him, “He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist.” And he said, “It is Elijah...”



3. We've normalized our personal and cultural idols (3:4)

Malachi 4:5–6: ⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers...”



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Luke 1:13–17: ¹³ ...you shall call his name John... ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go 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 just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”



3. We've normalized our personal and cultural idols (3:4)

Matthew 17:12–13: ¹² “I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased...
¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.”



3. We won't leave our lifestyles to surrender our sins (3:5–6)

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.



3. We won't leave our lifestyles to surrender our sins (3:5–6)

1 John 1:7, 9: ⁷ If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin... ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



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