



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.



Matthew 3:7–10

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.



Matthew 3:11–12

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.”



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1. True repentance is rooted in the right motives (3:7)

Luke 3:7: He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”



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2 Timothy 3:5: “the appearance of godliness”

Colossians 2:23: “an appearance of wisdom”

Proverbs 31:30: “Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain...”



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Outer Appearances That Easily Deceive

- Our presence in a gathering
- Our importance in a group
- Our reputation in a community
- Our interest in a movement
- Our knowledge of God's truth
- Our talents compared with others
- Our influence on other people
- Our resume of accomplishments



1. True repentance is rooted in the right motives (3:7)

2 Corinthians 7:10: For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.



2. True repentance produces genuine spiritual fruit (3:8–10)

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2. True repentance produces genuine spiritual fruit (3:8–10)

Romans 9:6–7: ⁶ For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring...



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Romans 2:28–29: ²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.



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Galatians 3:7: Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.



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Matthew 21:31–32: ³¹ ... Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you didn’t believe him. Tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him...



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3. True repentance flows from a holy fear of Christ (3:11–12)

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Matthew 11:11: ...there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.



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Psalm 1:4: The wicked are... like chaff that the wind drives away.



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Psalm 1:4: The wicked are... like chaff that the wind drives away.

Hosea 13:3: Therefore they shall be... like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor...



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Mark 9:42–48: ⁴² “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’”



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6. Invite mature believers to help you grow.



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