

Study Guide
Matthew 3:1-17
The Kingdom Has Come!

Big Idea- When God arrives, things change!

We live in a physical world that can be very consuming. But now imagine the arrival of God! What would change? How would your life be affected? That is the feel of Matthew's gospel. Prepare to read the verses of Chapter 3 and discuss them.

Enjoy!

1. Matthew 3:1-2

What a simple but profound message. What does it mean, and what are the implications for us today?

2. Matthew 3:3-6

This marks the breaking of centuries of prophetic silence! John links his word to Isaiah's prophecy and to Malachi's declaration of the coming of Elijah (Mal. 4:5). How do people respond? Why do you think there is such a great response? What does this being baptized imply?

3. Matthew 3:7-10

Why do you think John called the Pharisees and Sadducees a "brood of vipers"? What did John recommend to them? What was John's warning to them? Do people today claim to be religious and not "bear fruit"?

4. Matthew 3:11-12

According to John, what will happen when the Kingdom of Heaven arrives on earth? What imagery does Matthew use, and what are the implications?

5. Matthew 3:13-17

What does it mean for the baptism of Christ to "fulfill all righteousness"? Is that a relief to you? Notice how God's approval of Jesus as the Son of God marks the arrival of the King to reclaim His Kingdom.

Application

Discuss the practical implications of being in a spirit of repentance in preparation for the return of Christ? What could that look like for us today?

Message Slides

Big Idea- When God arrives things change!

Uniqueness of Matthew's Gospel

1. Jewish Audience
2. The Kingdom of Heaven

Big Idea- When God arrives things change!

Seven Subseries:

- 1. Awe and Wonder (Ch. 1-2)**

Matt. 1:1

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

Seven Subseries:

- 1. Awe and Wonder (1-2)**
- 2. Kingdom Declared (3-7)**
- 3. The Kingdom is Proven (8-10)**
- 4. Responding to the Kingdom (11-13)**
- 5. Upside Down Kingdom (14-20)**
- 6. Clash of Kingdoms (21-25)**
- 7. Kingdom Reclaimed (26-28)**

Kingdom Declared

A. The Message (v.1-2)

"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

The kingdom of heaven

1. The right to rule!

"Repent, for the [authority] of heaven is at hand."

2. The realm to rule!

"The kingdom will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce fruit." Matt. 21:43

3. The reality of rule!

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever." Rev. 11:15

The kingdom of heaven

Psalms 145:13- "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations."

1 Chron. 29:11-12- "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, O Lord is the Kingdom; you are exalted as head over all."

B. The Endorsement (v.3-4)

³For 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.'

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey."

Malachi 4:5: "Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes."

C. The Response (v.5-6)

⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins..."

D. The Caution (v.7-10)

"...⁷But 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? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And 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. ¹⁰Even 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.'"

E. The Arrival of Christ (v.11-17)

"¹¹I 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. ¹²His 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...”

E. The Arrival of Christ (v.11-17)

“...¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented. ¹⁶And 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; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

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