

Sermon Reflections

Make Way for the King Matthew 3:1-12

Summary: We receive Christ and His Kingdom through repentance. You must change.

1. Preparations for the King and His Kingdom (vv. 1-6)

Repent; Change Your Allegiance (vv. 1-3)

“Sin and Hell are married unless repentance proclaims the divorce.” C.H. Spurgeon

- What is the biblical meaning of repentance? What are some things that may be called repentance and are not repentance, or may be only part of repentance?
- Repentance is not a one-time act, rather, it continues throughout the Christian’s life. Presently, where can Christ’s rule grow in your life? What means has Christ given to His Church to mortify sin and live a life of repentance?

Reconcile with God; Confess Your Sins (vv. 4-6)

- In what way(s) did John the Baptist fulfill the role of Elijah?
- Genuine repentance starts in the heart but it manifests itself outwardly. What is the relationship between conversion and confession of sin and baptism?
- Lord willing, there will be baptisms at the GBC Sunday Evening Fellowship this month (1/26). Have you been baptized, publicly identifying and aligning yourself with Jesus Christ?

2. Warnings about the King and His Kingdom (vv. 7-12)

He Desires Real Change, not Lip-Service (vv.7-10)

- In his rebuke of the Pharisees John shows that baptism is meant only for the repentant sinner. What is the relationship between repentance and fruit bearing?
- Apart from Christ, repentance towards God is impossible. With God, however, dead stones can become living flesh. What does Ezekiel 36:26-27 teach about God, His people, and repentance?

He Divides the Authentic from the Phony (vv.11-12)

- Compare and contrast the Baptism of John and Jesus.
- John teaches us that Jesus, our King, will gather His people to Himself. Those who will not repent are cast into unquenchable fire. The fear of man and/or a low view of the character and nature of God do not produce preaching like John’s. How does your evangelism compare?