

Matthew, Week 7

Chapter 3: The “John the Baptist Experience,” Part 2

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DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS:

Only a thorough “John the Baptist Experience” lays the groundwork and foundation for Jesus to come – in an individual’s life, to a church, in true revival, and to the Church Universal before Jesus returns.

THE ISAIAH PROPHECY ABOUT JOHN THE IMMERSER:

- 1) Matthew 3:1-3 quotes the prophecy from **ISAIAH 40:3FF**. This is such a key point that it is also emphasized in the other three Gospels:
 - a. John 1:20-23: “I AM ‘THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS’ – John’s self-identification.
 - b. Mark 1:1-5, esp. verse 3.
 - c. Luke 3:1-6
- 2) The Isaiah 40 prophecy in its greater context.
 - a. Setting in Jewish history and in Isaiah.
 - b. The Middle-Eastern mindset towards potentates.
- 3) Isaiah 40
 - a. Mark (and therefore Peter) seems to “targum” this passage together with the Malachi 3:1 prophecy. Compare Mark 1:2 (“As it is written in Isaiah the prophet...”).
 - b. 1-2: “Speak to the heart...”; deals with *sins*.
 - c. 3-5:
 - i. Why does God need a cleared, level, straight “highway”?
 - ii. “Then”/”In order that” – v. 5
 - d. 6-8:
 - i. The temporal vs. the eternal – the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - ii. Peter quotes this passage in 1 Peter 1:24-25.

WHAT IS “REPENTANCE”?

- 1) Repentance = *metanoia* (μετάνοια) – meta + *nous* (mind) → a change of mind. But what *kind* of “change”?
- 2) *Metamorphosis* – meta + *morphe* = to change the body.
 - a. Caterpillar → pupa → butterfly
 - b. Larva → dragonfly.
- 3) Repentance means a complete and radical change in thinking about one’s worldview, outlook, self, God, moral law, sin, purpose, direction, etc.
- 4) *Why* does John say to repent?

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE “ELIJAH PROPHECY” – MALACHI 4:5-6

- 1) What was the chief purpose of Elijah’s ministry?
- 2) Was John Elijah or not?
 - a. John says, “No” – John 1:21.
 - b. But Jesus affirms that John *was* “Elijah” –
 - i. Matthew 11:14
 - ii. Matthew 17:10-13