



Central Coast
Assembly of God

Introducing the Kingdom

Date : 1/8/2023

Key Scriptures : Matthew 3:1-12

LECTIO DIVINA/ STUDY GUIDE

Reading & Prayer

John the Baptist

1 Now in those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness,

‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His pathway straight!’”

4 Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; 6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; 9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. 10 The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 The winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

start reading. read together the main scripture for this study

Reading #1

In reading these verses of scripture, what would you circle, highlight, or underline as important to know or understand? Is there anything you noticed for the first time?

What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that.

start thinking. ask a thoughtful question

John is the herald for "King" Jesus, announcing, "make ready the way...make his paths straight." *If someone were hearing this, what do you think their responsibility is, or what might their personal response be?*

What might the relationship be between the personal response and John's exclamation to "Repent!"

What is your reaction, or instinctive feeling toward the word "repent"?

"The **gospel** is the message about how Jesus makes it possible to know God. **Repentance** is one of the gospel's load-bearing walls. Any attempt to remove repentance from the gospel threatens the integrity of the entire message." (cru.com)

start sharing. engage it with your story

Reading #2

What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about during the sermon? Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

How were you "led" to repentance in your life?...initially?...continually?

Is repentance still an unusual word?

How should the church talk about repentance, or give invitation to repentance individually/communally?

start practicing. commit to a next step and live it out this week

What is Christ's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit of Jesus' presence.

"**Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.**" John wasn't interested in people feeling bad about their sins, being baptized and going back to their same old lives. Their behavior needed to reflect their repentance.

Luke 13:3 & 5 "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

start praying. be bold and pray with power

prayer requests:

Kaddish (Jewish) prayer: "May God let his kingship rule in your lifetime and in your days and in the whole lifetime of the house of Israel, speedily and soon."