

The Gospel of Matthew #15

MATTHEW 3: JOHN PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS:

Three: STRIPPING AWAY FALSE HOPES

Matthew 3:5-11

Three kinds of religious people there—and here—who feel no need of Jesus. John addresses them all:

I. Saved by my _____

Nothing to confess: **v5-6**

My good sincere efforts will outweigh my “mistakes”
My sins are not the real “me” that never wants to hurt anyone

Wm Farley: 3 deadly assumptions:

- 1) God is tolerant;
- 2) I am essentially good;
- 3) I can merit heaven

Who do you know that is like that?

II. Saved by my _____

I believe the necessary things to get me into heaven
I once went forward at a Billy Graham crusade or Young Life camp
I believe **that** Jesus died for my sins
Contrast: I believe **on** Jesus, **Who** died for my sins

There must be visible **fruits** to show genuine repentance:

v7-8, 10

Cf Luke 3:10-14

The problems with the Pharisees & Sadducees

Eg of the oak tree

Who do you know that is like that?

III. Saved by my _____

“We have Abraham as our father” (v9)

Complacent because of my connections with my

- Christian family
- Presbyterian (or Baptist or Roman Catholic, etc) background

Who do you know that is like that?

In contrast to all this:

IV. Saved by my _____

He will baptize you with the Spirit: a profound personal life changing experience: v11

Cf. Acts 2:38-39

Have you had this experience?

When all is said and done, what is your bottom line hope for heaven?

A. Repent (v2)

Recognize you have not followed God and desperately need to turn to Him to **cleanse** you (**water**)

B. Renewed (v11)

Recognize you need Him to **change** you; to baptize you with His **Spirit**

Only alternative: Baptism of **FIRE**: v7, 10, 11-12

Only Jesus can save you from that.

A church full of such people, cleansed and baptized by His Spirit, is a church full of joy and changes the community it is in