

**The Gospel of Matthew #13**

**MATTHEW 3: JOHN PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS:**

**One: WHY DO YOU NEED JESUS?**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

John is the transition from OT to NT

John is the \_\_\_\_\_ personified

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ personified

Without the Law there is no sense of a need for grace

So John comes as

I. \_\_\_\_\_ (v1-6)

Everything about John is startling

Clothes (cf Elijah: II Kings 1:8; also Zech 13:4)

Food

Desert

**Message:** he has a Word from God

That is what you & I need

II. \_\_\_\_\_ (v1-12)

Awaken a sense of need for Jesus thru his message:

A. What: the **Kingdom of heaven** is *near!* (v2)

What is this Kingdom of heaven?

Jews thought: Messianic Kingdom to restore freedom & glory to Israel

John thought: Messiah comes to bring judgment upon all

God meant: Messiah comes to defeat Satan's kingdom and establish **God's rule** in the **hearts** of His people. Judgment will come later.

II Sam 7:12-16; Psm 110:1-2; Isa 9:6-7; Dan 7:13-14

B. \_\_\_\_\_ : **Repent!**

What does that mean?

Jews thought: "Gloat!"; John said "Repent!"

Repent: turn back to God with your whole life

C. Why

Because the King is about to come in judgment!

- 7: coming wrath
- 10: ax is at the root of the trees to cut and burn
- 11: baptize with fire
- 12: gather some into His barn, but burn others as chaff with unquenchable fire

Unless you see that *everything* you say and do has eternal meaning and will be judged, you see Jesus as perhaps interesting, maybe even admirable, but not *necessary*

John comes to wake us up so we will hear the message of Jesus, and see our need of Him