



Today's Message

Date: February 2, 2010
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***John the Baptist: "Repent"***

Text: Luke 3:7-14 (ESV)

⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³ And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

Introduction: The long-awaited Kingdom was ready to burst into history! John the Baptist came to "prepare the way" for King Jesus. God entrusted to John a message designed to prepare the people of Israel to enter the Kingdom. His message was a startlingly direct call to repentance.

Today's take-home truth: No one will enter Christ's Kingdom without life-transforming repentance.

I. The message: Repent because the Day of Judgment is at hand. 7-9

- A. John warned against superficial religious display. 7
- B. John warned against repentance without fruit. 8a
- C. John warned against dependence on religious heritage. 8b
- D. John warned against delay, because time is short. 9

II. The application: Real repentance produces love for others. 10-14

- A. It turns selfishness into generosity. 10-11
- B. It turns greed into honesty. 12-13
- C. It turns abuse into contentment. 14