

① The theme for our next few lessons is "Letting the Levee"

We have seen in the studies in Genesis that God came for His people -

① We saw the long suffering nature of God -

② We saw God work in spite of jealous & rebellious man kind -

Tell me, "What was it pointing to"  
To man's need of a savior  
To Jesus coming of the Kingdom

Our Bible Study Title is "Time For Change"  
"And believe me, that's good advice for our day" Why?

Let's pray for God to speak to our hearts today -  
Prayer

What does the word "Repent" mean?  
Webster says: "to feel regret"  
to change our mind

To become dissatisfied and determined  
to change —

In the Greek, Repent as used here  
means "Think differently"  
Change of mind

"Turn from sin, Turn to God"  
More than saying "I am sorry"  
The Parable of the Fig Tree for  
is an ideal illustration of this:

So Matthew records the beginning  
of John the Baptist's ministry  
with the message to Repent

John saw a confrontation in the  
work — Israel was come face  
to face with God —

He saw the reality of the Messiah  
and made the announcement.

He saw Israel unprepared for  
the event —

It was time for a change  
What did John see?



- ②
- Ⓐ A people sold out to traditions
  - Ⓑ A people divided by Mosaic Doctrine
  - Ⓒ He saw a people who needed to turn to God

Let me Ask, Is Repentance just  
for lost people? No/Why?  
(Because some saved folk  
need to turn from sin,  
And turn to God.)

Lets Read some Scripture. Matt. 3:1-6

What is meant By "In those days"  
Answers: In Matt. 2: the chapter ends  
Announcing that Joseph & Mary  
had taken up residence in Nazareth.

This was the time Luke  
speaks of in Luke 2:40  
"And the child grew, and became  
strong in spirit, etc."

Some 30 years passed between  
Matt. 2:23 and Matt. 3:1

But "In those days" meant  
something else"

" In those crucial days or in  
these critical days"  
while God was preparing Jesus, John  
Came out of the wilderness preaching

He was called "John the Baptist"  
because he practiced water  
Baptism" We who call ourselves  
Baptist like to believe it  
was, ~~Believe~~ Baptism by  
immersion —

Now what was John's message?  
"Repent"

- ① Change Your ways —
- ② Begin to think differently
- ③ Turn from sin, Turn to God

The Greek word for Repent or  
used here is METANOIA

And it refers to a Requirement  
of God, if favor is to be found.

So John could be saying: If  
you want to find favor in God's  
Kingdom, you must meet His Requirements



Can you believe that this arrogant, wilderness  
preacher had the gall to say to  
the people of Israel you must  
change some things to please God -

Many of them thought just being a  
descendant of Abraham was all  
that was needed / Like some who feel  
all God requires is that we have  
an name on a church roll -  
John says Forget it -

You're Insured  
You've been unfaithful  
You've broken God's Laws  
You've grieved God

It's time for a change

"Repent" (and it's more than  
changing habits, it's changing  
hearts -)

"For the Kingdom of Heaven is  
at Hand" meaning what?

That God was going to come to  
His people in the form of <sup>leader</sup>  
Jesus. — He would be a ~~king~~  
People who would repent  
would be blessed. —

People who would not repent would  
be judged. —

John was saying: "Now <sup>hour</sup> will soon  
become a reality" Get ready for it

In v. 3 John makes reference to  
Isaiah 40 verse 3 where the  
prophet said: "There will be  
a voice crying out, 'Prepare  
ye the way of the Lord' make  
straight in the desert a highway  
for our God"

John was doing that.  
"Make straight" is a reference  
to repentance "The removal  
of obstacles keeping people  
away from God"

John's Ministry was, to make the  
people ready for Jesus. —



John did not dress to please society  
 He bore great resemblance to  
 the prophet. Elijah — He  
 was seen as a prophet —

U-5 Tells us that His former friend  
 John had a great following  
 among the common people  
 However, he was resented by  
 the affluent —  
 People were drawn to His  
 most unusual dress —

U-6 Tells us that John baptized  
 many people — It was not  
 to wash away their sins But  
 to imply that they had confessed  
 their sins — that they wanted  
 to change —

The Living Bible puts it this way:  
 "And when they had confessed  
 their sins, He baptized them  
 in the Jordan River"  
 These were those who  
 were serious about  
 Repentance —

Those who welcomed the coming of  
the Lord Jesus —

The water Baptism John  
performed did not produce  
forgiveness, <sup>But rather it</sup>  
symbolized <sup>a commitment,</sup> ~~forgiveness,~~  
cleansing, a New Beginning

If it had meant anything else, Jesus  
could have stayed in Heaven —

Repentance <sup>came</sup> before baptism And  
the Baptism symbolized our  
personal commitment to a change

But not everyone who came was truly  
repentant — v. 7 tells us that  
the Pharisees, who stressed strict  
obedience to the Law, (It was they  
who intrusted the Law) And  
the Sadducees, who were the  
priestly order and the Aristocratic  
party whose base of operation  
was the Temple —

John had strong words  
for them.



57 John called them Hypocrites Lacking  
in Sincerity — They come to observe  
and criticize —  
John called them "Generations  
of Vipers" — trying to lay  
on smooth stones —

Their insincerity was so obvious  
Why are you here, you don't  
come to repent but to criticize.

U 8 John was asking for proof of  
Sincerity // **Paints**  
Show your self for what you are  
John reminded them that his  
baptizing simply meant a  
commitment. A decision  
to follow God —

U 9 was a condemnation of  
something they now held  
dear — They were descendants  
of Abraham. (So was John)  
They felt good & safe in this  
John said: Don't rely on  
your ancestry to save you.

God was raising up a new people  
of the choises —

John said: Being a descendant  
of Abraham is neither a  
Requirement or Advantage in  
entrance to God's Kingdom

New Verse 10 is a statement  
of fact - God will judge  
all mankind, and the  
judgment had already begun.

In the old days / before Chris laws,  
the woodsman would use his  
axe to mark the spot where  
the first cut would be made.

V-10 meant God was not  
planning to remove the  
the faint fig tree, but to cut  
it down —

Judgment will be sure & complete.

V-11-12 begins John's getting  
serious about preaching again.  
Heal it.



6/ Here John recognizes Jesus for who He is, One worthy to be worshiped -

John says: "I'm not even worthy of loosing His shoes, a job done by the lowest of servants."

John said: "I baptize you with water, Symbolic of repentance"

The One who will soon make Himself known will baptize you or pour out on you, The Holy Spirit -

Your sins will be forgiven, you will receive spiritual power needed to live out repentance -

John was speaking of the promise of Acts 1 & 2

Just the prophet spoke of the Outpouring of the Holy Ghost  
Some one read Joel 2: 28 & 29

Here is the promise of the Holy Ghost perhaps 7 to 800 years before Christ.

So what John is saying is this.  
I'm speaking of none other than  
the Messiah —

Holy Ghost Baptism refers  
to a setting apart.

And with fire speaks of a  
making ready or making fit  
to serve —

"And with fire" also speaks of  
judgment — (fire cleans out all  
impurities —)

U-12 is John's way of saying:  
The Lord Jesus will separate  
the Good from the Bad

Now what John also said is this:  
It's time for a change in lives  
and living — God had sent  
over of our, or Messiah would  
come — He also said, "There  
would be a time of severe  
judgment —

At no time did John put the  
left hand on his — Nor should we



Dear hearts, The Messiah has come  
The Holy Spirit has been poured  
out, Judgement is near.

It's truly "Time For Change"

So: We hear John say: To have a  
change of heart, Repentance is  
a necessity — God will  
help all if they Ask.

John has said: It's urgent that  
Repentance be Made quickly

He has also said: Your Parents being  
Christians does not make you one —  
Your Grandparents being Christian  
does not automatically make  
you one —

And John said: Water Baptism  
is Symbolic — a picture  
of our Commitment.

Is it time for a change in your life?  
Then Consider making it today.

# Repentance Includes:

Conviction (sense of need)

Contrition (sense of guilt of sin)

Confession (Acknowledgment)

Conversion (Evidence)

Repentance (First Step toward being saved)

Repentance - (First Step toward Restoration)