

Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven Is Near Part 1

Matthew 3:1-17

Note: Understanding repentance.

- Repentance for the first century citizens of Israel was an acknowledgement of their sin for violating God's covenant relationship with them.
 - Repentance for the believer is confession of sin to be restored to fellowship. I John 1:9
 - Repentance for the unbeliever is admitting their guilt before God and their need for personal forgiveness for their sins which must include faith in Christ for personal salvation.
- John began his public ministry like a prophet of old by boldly proclaiming a message of repentance to the nation so that they might be ready to welcome the promised messiah. Matthew 3:1-12
 - ❖ Calling the nation to repentance was a fulfillment of prophecy. 3:1-4
 - ❖ John's baptism was to validate the commitment of the people to confess their sin of violating their covenant relationship with God. 3:5-6
 - ❖ John challenged the wicked religious leaders to bear spiritual fruit or suffer the wrath of God. 3:7-10
 - ❖ John declared that Jesus would come in power and give the Spirit to those who trusted in Him. 3:11-12
 - John began his public ministry by baptizing Jesus in obedience to the will of the Father. Matthew 3:13-17

Note: Understanding the seven aspects of the kingdom in scripture. (see chart)

- ✚ You enter the kingdom of God by faith in Christ. John 3:3,5
- ✚ You live as citizens of the kingdom by obediently following the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew Chapters 5-7

Application:

- Have you entered the Kingdom of God by faith in Christ?
- Who are you pointing to Christ?
- Are you living as a citizen of the Kingdom?
- Do you trust the words of scripture because they are being fulfilled perfectly?