

Matthew Lesson 3

The Gospel According to Matthew – Chapter 3

Chapter 3 presents the ministry of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus

Historical background: John the Baptist was startling! He was born about 6 months before Jesus. John was filled with the Holy Spirit from birth. [Luke 1; 5-25, 41, 57-79] In chapter 3 he suddenly appears dressed in a strange way. He ate differently than most other people, and he was preaching and baptizing. His father was a priest in the Jewish temple and his mother was a cousin of the mother of Jesus.

Vocabulary

- Wilderness of Judea
- Repent
- Kingdom of heaven
- Baptize
- Pharisees & Sadducees
- Wrath
- Produce fruit
- Repentance
- Winnowing fork
- Threshing floor

- Chaff
- Children of Abraham
- Righteousness
- Spirit of God

Questions about Chapter 3

- What was John's main message to the people?
- What was Isaiah's prophecy?
- Why did John the Baptist call the Pharisees and Sadducees names?
- Explain the image of the ax at the root of the trees.
- Who is the one coming after John the Baptist?
- What happened between John and Jesus at the Jordan River?
- Who's voice was the "voice from heaven"? What was He saying?
- What do you think are the main lessons from Chapter 3?

