

MATTHEW 3 vs 1

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¹ In those days John the Baptizer, came preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

² And saying, **METANOEO:** / can we all say: METANOEO? John could say: METANOEO which is the Greek word for THE terrible word... that crept into our language... which primarily suggests: to **pain**... and **distress**... and **pain again**; in other words: to **re-pain**, you know: **repent**... terrible word!

METANOEO... is from 2 Greek roots: **meta** = **change** + **noeo** = **mind**...and like Dr. Dallas Willard of USC said, without a changed mind there will be no changed heart.

John said: **change your mind**, or... change what you know... think differently; because John knew: **only a changed mind... leads to a changed heart**. It is a GOOD word that even the littlest children going to school should do every day.

rethink... **reconsider**... or **remind**... all helpful words for life-long learners; so drop the REPAIN word. John said...

Rethink... **Reconsider**... **Remind**...for the kingdom of heaven is at hand / where God lives... and love and joy and peace abound.

³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying,

The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight / in other words: **clear the path**, John says, remove the obstacles and hindrances that you've allowed to clutter His direct route to you. Do your part to connect with the Lord. Matthew Henry says, the Lord will generously do His part, His 9 things; but He won't do our 1 part, too.

⁴ And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leather belt about his loins; and his food was locusts and wild honey / so, John to the casual onlooker was definitely an odd man... who was strategically placed in the plan of God.

⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him / so from religion headquarters, and those of the Jewish homeland, as well as all the local clans in the area went out,

⁶ And were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins / acknowledging their failures -- clearing obstacles... they were externally washed as an expression of their desire to be clean before God.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees came to his baptism / John the Baptizer was surprised to see these folks, 2 very different groups, the educated elite of Judah... the self-righteous, those weighed down with their endless manmade traditions;



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And the other who had long ago departed from the faith of their father Zadok the priest during the time of King David... and there they were, crossing the sand dunes in their white attire... who walked 50, 80, 100 miles to check out all the noise about John in the wilderness,

he said to them, O generation of vipers... now that doesn't really sound very complimentary, does it? I mean John would be told by the PC church hierarchy today to clean up his very offensive language, John said to this peer group of poisonous snakes that could strike in a minute and kill you...

John said... who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? / so, John was not afraid of them; as a matter of fact, pause and consider what he said, you might find John had a sense of humor. Obviously... it wasn't John who warned them.

⁸ Therefore produce fruit consistent with a changed mind:

⁹ Do not presume you can think to say, Our father is Abraham: for I say to you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones / years later, religious leaders were offended by the multitude singing praises, they wanted Jesus to silence them, but He responded: [if they will not sing, the rocks will cry out](#) -- [Luke 19:40](#). God gives his creation the opportunity to respond properly; and John the Baptist could discern the forest for the trees.

¹⁰ And now also the axe is laid to the root of the trees: so, every tree that does not bring forth good fruit is cut down, and cast in the fire.

¹¹ I indeed, for your changed mind baptize you with water; but He who comes after me is mightier than I / greater, more powerful, whose sandals... I am not worthy to carry:

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire / and isn't that about the most enigmatic, glossed over verse of the Bible? John says, Jesus will baptize... but His baptism isn't like all the church people who argue about how much or how little water. As a matter of fact, notice... the word **water, h₂O is not even mentioned**, but all the scholars will quickly tell us why we must follow their manmade tradition. I imagine it is wise to ask: when YOU were baptized... was it with... **the Holy Spirit and with fire**? Especially since that is the clear... signature baptism of Jesus / the Messiah of God, this mighty One coming.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire ...which obviously suggests the sprinkling and dunking debates for the last 2,000 years are the simple, divisive discussions of the arrogant and self-righteous; so to bulldoze through all the confusion... let's hear it again:

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire: If you don't know that baptism, then ask the Lord Jesus, who said He will build His church, which is what He is still doing today.

¹² Whose winnowing fan is in His hand... able to separate the wheat from the chaff... there are lots of churchianity people who think that is their assignment, to separate others and decide who is in, and who is out. I'll leave that job in the mighty One's hand... and let Him do His work,

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and He will thoroughly purge His floor, **and gather His wheat into the garner** / in this very imperfect world, I bet He will; I trust the Lord's perfect ability to clean and clear His floor. Notice His good harvest is gathered up; but there won't be a scrap of earth's trailer trash found in heaven because we read;

but He will burn up the chaff with fire that does not extinguish.

Enter the Messiah,

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

¹⁴ But John stopped Him saying, I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?

¹⁵ Jesus answered and said to him, Permit it now: for it is fitting to fulfil all that is right. Then he permitted Him.

¹⁶ And when He was baptized, Jesus immediately went out of the water: and, lo / **mark this, heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, coming upon Him:**

¹⁷ And lo / **mark this, a voice from heaven, said,**

This is My beloved Son, in Him I am well-pleased.

We all should pay attention to what HE said.

[O Come Let Us Adore Him](#)

[God of Wonders](#)

[The Love of God](#)

[Dr. Dallas Willard of USC](#) without a changed mind there will be no changed heart.