

Providence Reformed Baptist Church

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 8. John the Baptizer – Matthew 3:1-6

Pastor Phillip M Way

- I. The Messenger: John – Luke 3:1; Matt. 17:10-13
 - A. Foretold – the first prophet in 400 years - Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6; Luke 1:17
 1. Forerunner (John is the Voice/Jesus is the Word)
 2. Repair and level the road for an approaching dignitary
 3. God’s forerunner came to prepare the way for the coming of Christ
 4. A threat to Herod
 - B. Fashion
 1. Dressed like a prophet, Elijah – 2 Kings 1:8; Matt. 11:14; 17:11-13
 2. Not fancy, but plain and even rough – Zech. 13:4
 3. Living simply as a Nazarite – Luke 1:13-17
 - C. Food
 1. Locusts – grasshoppers – Lev. 11:20-23
 - a. Nutritious and plentiful
 - b. Roasted or dried and preserved in honey and vinegar
 - c. Powdered and mixed with flour to make pancakes
 2. Wild honey – Judges 14:8-9
- II. The Message: Repent – pointing to Christ – Matt. 3:11
 - A. Repentance
 1. A warning – the kingdom is near, the king/judge is coming – Matt. 4:17
 2. A demand – turn, more than sorrow or a change of mind, but a change of direction in thinking and living – Joel 2:12; Acts 26:20
 3. An expectation – be holy moving forward in this new direction – Matt. 3:8
 - B. Baptism
 1. To dip, plunge, or immerse
 2. Passive – to drown
 3. A ship that sinks
 4. Signifying death to an old way of life – Rom. 6:3
 5. A ritual bath, purification
 - a. Applied to Gentiles at their conversion to Judaism
 - b. This baptism was now applied to Jews also
 - C. Confession of Sin
 1. To agree – Psa. 32:5
 2. When people repent, they say so, and they do so
- III. The Method: Preaching – 1 Cor. 1:21; 2:4; 2 Tim. 4:1-3
 - A. Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand
 1. Turn
 2. The kingdom coming is something that happens, not just something that exists
 3. Revealing of the King – “The Messiah will soon appear.”
 - B. Baptism and Confession
 1. In the Jordan – a place of crossing into the promised land – Josh. 3:1-6, 17
 2. In the wilderness – a place of new beginnings – Jer. 2:2-3; Hos. 2:14-15; Ezek. 20:35-38
 - C. Making much of Christ, little of self – John 1:29; 3:30

Cross References

Luke 3:1

3 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,

Matthew 17:10-13

10 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" 11 Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. 12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Isaiah 40:3

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.

Malachi 3:1

3 "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 4:5-6

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Luke 1:17

17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

2 Kings 1:8

8 So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

Matthew 11:14

14 And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.

Matthew 17:11-13

11 Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. 12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished.

Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” 13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Zechariah 13:4

4 “And it shall be in that day that every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies; they will not wear a robe of coarse hair to deceive.

Luke 1:13-17

13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Leviticus 11:20-23

20 ‘All flying insects that creep on all fours shall be an abomination to you. 21 Yet these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on all fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth. 22 These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind. 23 But all other flying insects which have four feet shall be an abomination to you.

Judges 14:8-9

8 After some time, when he returned to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the carcass of the lion. 9 He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them, and they also ate. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.

Matthew 3:11

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Matthew 4:17

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Joel 2:12

12 “Now, therefore,” says the Lord, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”

Acts 26:20

20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

Matthew 3:8

8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

Romans 6:3

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Psalms 32:5

5 I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

1 Corinthians 1:21

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1 Corinthians 2:4

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

2 Timothy 4:1-3

4 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

Joshua 3:1-6

3 Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. 2 So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; 3 and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. 4 Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before." 5 And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." 6 Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

Joshua 3:17

17 Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

Jeremiah 2:2-3

2 “Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord: “I remember you, the kindness of your youth, the love of your betrothal, when you went after Me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. 3 Israel was holiness to the Lord, the firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; disaster will come upon them,” says the Lord.’ ”

Hosea 2:14-15

14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her. 15 I will give her her vineyards from there, and the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 20:35-38

35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. 36 Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you,” says the Lord God. 37 “I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; 38 I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

John 1:29

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

John 3:30

30 He must increase, but I must decrease.