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| Sun Am Msg. Matthew 3   July 23 2022   Following Jesus -  **Matthew 3   The Courage and Conviction of John the Baptist to follow the Lord!** * **Joshua 1:9  Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”**

**In chapter 4 of Matthew we see this command and instructions to follow Jesus!** * Mat\_4:19  And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

**Following Jesus is the foundation of being a Christian:** * We are followers of Christ Jesus King and Savior, Son of God!
* If we are not willing to follow Jesus wherever: then are we a Christian?
* Mat\_8:19  And a certain scribe came, and said unto Him [Jesus], “Master, I will follow Thee, wherever thou go.”

**Who was John the Baptist?  Ref. Matthew 3:1-6** * He was God’s chosen vessel from the womb – Lk. 1:44
* Who are we?
* God has chosen the foolish things to confound the wise: 1 Cor. 1:27-28
* God has chosen His Salvation through His Spirit to all that Believe and follow Him -2 Thess 2:13
* God has chosen all that are His from the foundation of the world. Eph. 1:4
* We are God’s chosen generation – 1 Pet\_2:9

 **What was his message?*** Mat 3:2  And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
* What is Repentance?  “TO TURN AWAY”
* Acts\_3:19  Repent you all therefore, and be converted [one that shows God work in you] , that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
* God’s Message of Repentance is powerful and needed for the Gospel of Jesus to save the sinner from sins!

**God’s People know the voice of God and don’t follow strangers [falsehood] Ref Mat. 3:7-10** * John\_10:5  And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.
* Joh\_10:27  My sheep hear my voice [Jesus] , and I know them, and they follow Me:

**God’s People are God’s sheep*** Joh\_12:26  If any man serve Me [Jesus] , let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

**Jesus will Baptize you with the Holy Spirit** * WE NEED and GOD GIVES HIS SPIRIT - Romans\_8:9  But you all are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he [you and me] are none of His [Jesus].
* Are you ready to ask? - Luke\_11:13  If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

**Jesus Christ our Savior and Substitute for our sins:*** **The Day John meet Jesus: Ref. Matthew 3:13-17**
* John saw God
* John was humbled
* John was a sinner needed grace and mercy
* John was ready for God’s Salvation
* John was forgiven

**Jesus came fulfil God’s law on our behalf:** * Heb\_4:15  For we have not an high priest [Jesus] which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
* 2 Cor\_5:21  For He [Father] hath made Him [Son] to be sin for us [Jacob], who knew no sin [Jesus]; that we [you and me] might be made the righteousness of God in Him [Jesus].

**V4 John was willing to do hard things for God:*** Worked daily in a local desert setting , local clothing stores , with the local farmers market
* Paul calls himself God’s ambassador in bonds: Eph\_6:20
* The Greatest thing we can do for the Lord is to use our lives to glorify Him!
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