

Assignments on Matthew 3

Please read Matthew 3 (note parallels in other accounts) and answer these questions.

1. Whose work is described beginning in 3:1? Where did he preach? According to Luke chapter 1, who were his parents, and what was his relationship to Jesus?
2. What was his message – 3:2? Define repentance. List other passages about it.
3. Case Study: Many people believe that the kingdom of Christ will not begin till Jesus comes again. What did John teach about the kingdom? What can we learn about the nature and existence of the kingdom from John 18:36, Colossians 1:13,14?
4. What prophecy did John's work fulfill – 3:3? Where was this prophecy found in the Old Testament? What does this tell us about John's purpose?
5. Describe John's clothing and food – 3:4?
6. Who came to John – 3:5,6? Why? What did they do along with baptism?
7. Application: Where did John baptize? What can we learn about the action involved in baptism (see also verse 16)? List other passages showing whether baptism is sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.
8. Who else came to John's baptism, and what was his message to them – 3:7? Who were these men, and why would John speak to them this way?
9. What did John teach in 3:8? Explain what it means, and give similar passages.
10. Application: How should we describe the kind of preaching John did? Did John believe the modern idea that we should not criticize other people's beliefs? Explain.

11. What did John say these people might think – 3:9? How did he answer this view? (Think: How did John's response show the error of these people?)
12. What illustration did John use in 3:10? Explain the significance.
13. How did John compare himself to Jesus – 3:11? How did he compare their baptisms? (Think: Study context and decide the meaning of baptism in fire – note verses 10,12.)
14. Case Study: Some people claim to have Holy Spirit baptism today. List other passages and describe characteristics of Holy Spirit baptism compared to water baptism.
15. How did John illustrate the work of Jesus in 3:12? Explain the illustration.
16. Who came to be baptized by John according to 3:13,14? How did John respond to him? (Think: Why would John respond in this way?)
17. What response did Jesus give to John – 3:15? Explain the significance. (Think: Did Jesus have sins for which He needed to repent and be forgiven?)
18. How did the Father and the Holy Spirit express their approval of Jesus – 3:16,17?
19. Case Study: Some people believe the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are just one individual. What can we learn from Jesus' baptism that shows whether or not this idea is true?
20. Special Assignment: What can we learn from this account about Jesus' nature?
21. Case Study: Some people today claim to still practice John's baptism. Study Acts 19:1-6 and discuss the Bible teaching about this belief.