

The JOURNEYMEN

"We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it to you: come with us, and we will do you good..."

-- Numbers 10:29

Book Study – Matthew 3:1 - 17

John the Baptist Prepares the Way & The Baptism of Jesus



Before We Begin Our Journey...

1. What phrases, words, or images spring to mind when you hear the term "preacher"?
2. What preacher has influenced you most?
3. What are some "initiation" rites or procedures that organizations make new members go through?



Do Some Digging and Pre-planning...

4. What was John's message? (3:2)
5. How did people receive John's message? (3:5)
6. What harsh name did John call the religious leaders? Why? (3:7-10)
7. What was John's message to the local "men of the cloth"? (3:7-10)
8. What was the purpose of John's water baptism? (3:11)
9. How did John describe the type of baptism Jesus would bring? (3:11)
10. Where did Jesus come from and how did John react to Jesus' request? (3:13-14)
11. How did Jesus respond to John's reluctance? (3:15)
12. Why was it important for John to comply with Jesus' request? (3:15)
13. Voices from heaven, the Holy Spirit's appearance...what's going on here? (3:16-17)



Sort it Out, Organize It, Gain Some Understanding...

14. Why is it that coming from a religious family doesn't guarantee spiritual security?
15. What does it mean to repent?
16. What is the significance of images "winnowing fork," "gathering His wheat," & "burning up the chaff"?
17. Why do you think John felt awkward about baptizing Jesus?
18. What does this passage show about God's triune nature?
19. How important is obedience to God's will in the decision-making processes of our lives? How are you able to please God?
20. How do we know God's will? How do we make decisions based upon "doing God's will?"



Application for the Journey...

21. What particular sin(s) do you need to repent of today?
22. What first step could you take toward obeying God better today?
23. What could you do today for Christ out of obedience and respect for Him?

A prayer for your journey... "Lord Jesus, as I make my way through this coming week, help me prepare for my journey by reading my Bible more regularly, seeking help as I need it from my Christian friends and focusing on the needs of others instead of myself." -Amen



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*ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TRINITY. The term by which is expressed the unity of three Persons in the one God. The Christian doctrine is: (1) That there is only one God, one divine nature and being. (2) This one divine Being is tripersonal, involving the distinctions of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (3) These three are joint partakers of the same nature and majesty of God. This doctrine is (mainly) one of revelation (it is never explicitly stated). And although it brings before us one of the great mysteries of revelation and transcends (our) finite comprehension, it is essential to the understanding of the Scriptures...

Matt 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

John 14:16-17

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

1 Cor 12:4-6

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

2 Cor 13:11-14

11 Finally, brothers, good-by. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 All the saints send their greetings. 14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Eph 4:1-6

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood:

Rev 1:4-6

4 John, to the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.