

SERMON OUTLINE

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

'Behold your King' - 2

Matthew 3 v1 - 12

Key Text - 21 v5 (AV) - "Behold, your King...." We could take up another key text - Acts 17 v6a - 7 - "There is another king; one called Jesus...."

In this passage - 'the coming of the King is announced'. Note that the focus of our immediate attention is not so much upon the King Himself, but upon the one who announced His coming - John the Baptist.

Key Question - How would you describe John the Baptist? Answer - he was remarkable in that he was simply the greatest. See - 11 v11a

1. JOHN THE BAPTIST - A REMARKABLE MAN

Look at how John is introduced here. See - v1a. There is hardly anything said about him because, to the Jews, he needed no introduction - everyone knew who he was. Maybe we don't! See - Lk 1 v1 - 80 for the record of his remarkable birth.

2. JOHN THE BAPTIST - A REMARKABLE MINISTRY

A. THE SETTING FOR HIS MINISTRY

See - v1. No city centre charge for John. Why the desert wilderness? Was this symbolic of where the nation (the church) was, spiritually speaking, in these days?

B. THE IMPACT OF HIS MINISTRY

See - v5. Key Question - What was it about his ministry that gripped and attracted people?

(i) His authority

John spoke as a man come from the presence of God with the word of God. Think of the historical context of his ministry in that there had been silence from heaven for over 400 years - but now, God was

speaking. See - Mal 4 v5, and here - v4. See also - Matt 17 v10 - 13 & Lk 1 v17a. Whenever the people listened to John, they were able to say - 'God is speaking!' Note - When a man speaks with the authority of God, he fears no man! See - v7a.

(ii) His humility

See - v3a - "a voice...."

Key Question - What was John's ministry? Answer - To prepare the way for the King. See - v3. Key Point - It was this fact of the coming of the King which shaped John's message.

3. JOHN THE BAPTIST - A REMARKABLE MESSAGE

Who else was preaching this message?

A. REPENTANCE FROM SIN

See - v1 - 2a. And why do we need to repent? See - v3b - "for the kingdom of heaven is near." In other words - the King is coming. When He comes He will deal with sin - either forgiving it or judging it.

Key Question - What is repentance?

Gk - 'metanoia' - 'a change of mind'. It's changing your mind about sin - looking upon it as God looks upon it, as that which brings down His wrath. See - v7. This change of mind, leads to a change of heart, which in turn leads to a change of will. In other words - you do something about it. See - v5 - 6. Key Question - What will be the evidence that our repentance is genuine? Answer - There will be a change in lifestyle. See - v8. Note - This applies to those who consider themselves good church going members. See - v9 - 10.

B. FAITH IN CHRIST

See - v11.