

Repentance fit for a king. Matthew 3.1-12

1. **John the Baptist.** John's job was to prepare the way for Jesus. In what way did repentance prepare the way for Jesus' message of the Kingdom of Heaven/God?

2. **Remorse versus repentance.** What's the difference? Discuss with your group whether it's possible to repent without being remorseful, or vice versa? In certain traditions, eg. Catholic, penitence involves doing certain symbolic acts to show one's repentance. Is this a help or a hindrance?

3. **The Kingdom is not a democracy.** If God is a benign dictator, according to the view put forward in *Chariots of Fire*, how does that affect our response towards him?

4. **Fruit.** John calls for fruit. What kind of fruit is produced by a repentant heart? What kind of fruit is God producing in your life right now?

5. **The Holy Spirit.** What role does the Holy Spirit play in the believer's life to enable one who has turned away from sin to remain turned away? How is the Holy Spirit enabling you to produce fruit and show a life of true repentance? See Rom 8.5-9; 8.26; I Cor 12; Gal 3.4-6; Gal 5; Eph 4.29-32; 2 Tim 1.7