

Repentance fit for a king: Matthew 3.1-12

Day One.

Listen to the episode. Read the following question, and write your answers in the box provided.

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?

Reflection: Remorse versus repentance. What's the difference? Is it possible to repent without being remorseful, or vice versa? What specifically is God calling you to repent of today? Confess it now.

In certain traditions, eg. Catholic, penitence involves doing certain symbolic acts to show one's repentance. Is this a help or a hindrance? If you find acts of contrition helpful, what acts is God calling you to today? Such acts are symbolic, and do not replace the contrition of the heart.

Prayer.

Day Two.

Listen to the episode. Read the following questions, and write your answers in the box provided.

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?

Reflection: We're very familiar with our ability to choose. Governments. Cars. Schools. Doctors. But God calls for submission to His ways. In what areas is God calling you to submit today? Is there anything you need to let go of today? Bring it to God in prayer.

Prayer.

Day Three.

Listen to the episode. Read the following questions, and write your answers in the box provided.

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?

Reflection: 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 (Optional, of course)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.” Gal 5.22. If you're struggling in any of these areas, eg. Patience, then ask God to produce this fruit in your life by His Spirit. Bring your burdens to Him in prayer.

Prayer.