



Gospel Righteousness – TEXT: MATTHEW 3

A prophetic DEMAND for CHANGE in SIN-FILLED world: Matt 3:1-2a, 4

- 1) **We ALL need to REPENT because NONE of us is RIGHT with God:** Romans 3:10–12. See also: Psalm 14:1-3; Isaiah 59:1-8
- 2) **The consequence for our SIN is God’s JUST WRATH:** Matthew 3:7
See also: Matthew 12:34, 23:33; Romans 1:18, 2:5
- 3) **Our worldly SYSTEMS are ALL inherently CORRUPTED and INCAPABLE of making us right with God:** Isaiah 59:12–14
- 4) **Neither our BIOLOGICAL nor FAITH LINEAGE can make us RIGHT with God:** Matthew 3:9. See also: John 8:39
- 5) **Neither can our ETHICAL OBEDIENCE, COMPARATIVE “GOODNESS” GOOD WORKS, or RELIGIOUS activities:** Rom. 3:20 See: Eph. 2:8–9
- 6) **RIGHTEOUSNESS is NOT OPTIONAL:** Matthew 5:17, 20
- 7) **REPENTANCE is NOT mere REGRET, nor an EVENT, but an ongoing process of DYING to self, of bending GODWARD in ALL of life!**

A prophetic PROMISE to a LONGING world: Matthew 3:3. cf: Isaiah 40:3

- 1) **Even prophets like John the Baptizer knew they needed a coming SAVIOR:** John 1:19–20
- 2) **GOD had PROMISED He would send a RIGHTEOUS REDEEMER:** Isaiah 59:15b–17, 20) See also: Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-5; 16:5; 32:1, 16-17; 42:6; 45:13, 21; 61:11; 62:1-2
- 3) **John PREACHED about this GREATER REDEEMER:** Matthew 3:11
See also: Acts 1:5, 11:16, 19:4.
- 4) **This RIGHTEOUS REDEEMER would DIVIDE the world between those who REPENT and those who DON’T:** Matthew 3:12. See also: Matthew 13:30; Mark 9:43-48, John 15:6
- 5) **This RIGHTEOUS REDEEMER would REMOVE the (SIN) UNRIGHTEOUSNESS from His followers:** John 1:29

A prophetic ANNOUNCEMENT to an INVADED world: Matthew 3:1–2

- 1) **An unexpected KING:** Matthew 3:13
- 2) **An unreasonable REQUEST:** Matthew 3:14
- 3) **An unforeseen ANOINTING:** Matthew 3:16; John 1:32–34
- 4) **An unanticipated FULFILLMENT:** Matthew 3:15
 - a) **Jesus LIVED the SINLESS LIFE we were CREATED FOR:** 1 Peter 2:22. See also: Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 3:5
 - b) **Jesus FULFILLED God’s LAW:** Matthew 5:17
 - c) **Jesus ACCOMPLISHED ALL God COMMANDED:** John 17:4, 19:30
- 5) **An unimaginable PROCLAMATION:** Matt 3:17 See: 17:5; 2 Ptr 1:17
 - a) **Extended to His repentant ENEMIES:** John 17:26
 - b) **Jesus came to CREDIT US with His PERFECT righteousness:** 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - c) **God’s PLEASURE with His SON now COVERS US:** Isaiah 61:10a
See also: Isaiah 61:1-3; Zephaniah 3:17

A prophetic CALL to RESPONSE: Mark 1:14–15. See also: Matthew 4:17

- 1) **To CONFESS (both our SINS and inadequate attempts at SELF-SALVATION) and then REPENT:** Matt 3:5–6; 1 John 1:9; Prov 28:13
- 2) **To desperately WANT God’s RIGHTEOUSNESS:** Matt 5:6 See: Is 51:1
- 3) **To BELIEVE in God’s PROVISION:** Isaiah 45:24–25
- 4) **To BEAR GOSPEL FRUIT:** Matthew 3:8. See also: Acts 26:20
 - a) **FRUIT is NOT OPTIONAL:** Matt 3:10. See also: 7:19; John 15:2
 - b) **FRUIT flows from TRANSFORMATION:** Mtt 7:17–18. See: 12:33
 - c) **ONLY God’s indwelling SPIRIT bears transformed FRUIT in our lives:** Galatians 5:22–23. See also: John 15:5

“Gospel In Life” questions for REFLECTION & APPLICATION

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with?
- 6) **PREPARE for NEXT WEEK:** Read Matthew 4