

John Starts Clearing The Road...

Luke 3:3-6

- I. (v. 3) **John begins...** Although outnumbered, and in a spiritually hostile place and time, John officially starts his ministry and begins to speak... The message he continues to cry is the need for _____ (*baptism of...*) in order for true salvation to occur.

"Baptism of..." the symbol of John's baptism likely had its roots in the Old Test, purification rituals (Lev. 15), used as a symbol of coming into a new belief system (i.e. baptism of Gentiles into Judaism). John's baptism was a unique call of repentance, preparing for the Messiah's arrival, where _____-Christ baptisms are more aligned with Christ's death, burial and resurrection (**Rom. 6:3-4**)

Repentance= metanoia (μετάνοια), _____ of mind, change in the inner man, literally a 180 change of direction. It also implies "I was wrong and I stand corrected".

Don't be fooled ... (?) Is John saying that if you just start "thinking different" and start "behaving Christian" on your _____, then that can earn you heaven? Ans.- NO! (**Matt. 7:21-23**)
He is simply highlighting the _____ of the gospel of Jesus, meaning... Coming to Christ for salvation involves and _____ these changes, because the Holy Spirit, when coming to make a home within a person, gives a believer a *new birth*, causing a *new heart*, *new desires*, *new understanding* and *new behavior*, which is the complete opposite of what most people believe. So, this call to repentance is simply a call to surrender and come to Jesus; to be born-again. I.e., don't just start acting Christian, actually _____ one first! (*Ryle quote...*)

Clarifying further... Repentance from what?:

- Repentance from a general life of unashamed _____.
- From the sin of thinking you can make up your own _____ about life and how to get to heaven (**Prov. 14:12**).
- Making your own rules about what acceptable _____ is to God (**Ps. 51:16-17; Amos 5:21-24**)

- D. Misusing God's law as a way to legalistically suppress people (**Mt. 23:23-24**), thus, making it way too hard for people to have true saving faith before the Lord. I.e. getting lost in the "letter" of the law, while missing the "_____ " of the law (*Video*)

- II. (v. 4- 6) **The Explanation of John's Ministry:** (Ref. to Is. 40:3-5)
- A. (4) **"Make His path straight"...** NOTE: A monarch traveling in wilderness regions would have a crew of workmen go ahead to make sure the road was clear of debris, obstructions, potholes and other hazards that made the journey difficult. In a spiritual sense here, John is clearing the path in people's _____ and minds, making them ready for this "once in history" arrival of the Messiah. "You need to get ready, He's arrived!" "You cannot afford to miss this!" "You need to repent!"
- B. (5) **"Every Ravine will be filled"...**
- "Every"**- even the _____, people will be brought the blessing of salvation (it's for everyone, not just the elite) "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." "The last shall be first"
 - "Filled"**- plērōthēsetai (πληρωθήσεται) Future Pass-"will be filled", cram packed, the lowly person shall be spiritually _____ rich as anyone else. There is no qualifying social status in Christ.
 - "Every mountain and hill brought low"**- The proud, the spiritually self-sufficient, self-confident & arrogant ("I don't need a Savior!"), their _____ shall be cut down and made low. They will be humbled and will lose everything if they do not repent.
 - "The crooked will become straight"**- the crooked thief & businessman, the crooked husband and wife, student & professor, politician, etc... all of these lifestyles will be _____ upon repentance.
 - "Rough Roads Smooth"...** the rough ways on _____ hopelessness, emptiness, insecurity, guilt, shame, sin, death, false religion/ idols, empty worship. The way to life and peace before God shall be planed, made level, easy to reach for those who would believe.
- C. (6) **"All flesh will see the salvation of God"**- Gentiles & Jews- showing the universal _____ of the gospel (**Jn 10:16**)