



# **“The Way through the Wilderness”**

## **Matthew 3:1-12**

### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

D.A. Carson, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew*, 2010.

Daniel M. Doriani, *Reformed Expository Commentary: Matthew*, 2008.

William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary: Matthew*, 1973.

Tim Keller, *Logos Sermon Archive*.

Grant R. Osborne, *Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: Matthew*, 2010.

### Head: Understanding the Bible

*“When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said “Repent,” he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance.”*

~Martin Luther, 95 Theses

- 1) Read Matthew 3:1-12. What significance does the wilderness have in the Bible?
- 2) Jesus preached the same sermon as John the Baptist (see Matt. 4:17), calling people to repent. What do John and Jesus mean when they tell us to repent?
- 3) What's the difference between the religious leaders (the Pharisees and Sadducees) and those being baptized? Why is John using such harsh language?
- 4) What's the difference between John's baptism and the baptism of Jesus?
- 5) Based on Isaiah 40:1-11 (which is quoted by Matthew about John the Baptist) what kind of King is Jesus?

## Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

*“What does it mean to repent? A. to repent is to be sorry, sorry for sin, and to hate and forsake it, because it displeases God.” ~Dana Dirksen, Songs for Saplings*

- 6) How does the gospel of Jesus Christ bring together God’s kindness, justice and mercy? What kind of fire does Jesus go through?
- 7) Compare the fire Jesus goes through with the fire the Christian goes through. (See Malachi 3:2)

## Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

*“If any love is shown us we should recognize that we are quite unworthy of it. Nobody is worthy to be loved. The fact that God loves man shows that in the divine order of ideal things it is written that eternal love is to be given to what is eternally unworthy. Or if that phrase seems to you a bitter one to hear, let us say that everyone is worthy of love, except he who thinks that he is. Love is a sacrament that should be taken kneeling, and ‘Lord, I am not worthy’ should be on the lips and in the hearts of those who receive it.” ~Oscar Wilde, De Profundis*

- 8) How do you make repentance a regular part of your Christian life? Why is this so hard?
- 9) What are the motivations for repentance? What’s the difference between godly repentance and a worldly repentance?
- 10) Take time to pray prayers of repentance together. Pray prayers of gratitude for Jesus, the King, who carries the repentant, through the wilderness.