



*Warning of the Coming Wrath

**Matthew 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:*

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the LORD;

Make His paths straight."

4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

1. **John is the last of the O.T. Prophets** and is assigned to get Israel ready for the Messiah.
2. **V:7 Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?**
3. **What does fruit worthy of repentance look like?**

*Three Unique Places to show a Radical Spirit

Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; *11 **not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

1. ***Not Lagging in Diligence**, V:10: Be Attentive in your love, V:12: Stay Focused and patient in tribulation, and V:13-16: Rejoice, weep, and be Noncontentious in your relationships.

2. **Fervent in spirit.** Fanatical about what is good and hating what is evil.
3. ***Serving the Lord** takes on the whole passage of **Romans 12:9-20**. The exception is that we are not to serve Jesus by repaying evil, avenging ourselves, or withholding needs from our enemies.

Radical Permission is acting with great diligence and in a passionate way that the only answer to why you are doing so is because of your obedience to Jesus

**Born to Fulfill Righteousness.*

***Matthew 3:13** Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. **14** And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. **17** And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

1. ***Jesus' words** are, "Permit it to be so now, for it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.
2. **John was to partner** with Jesus in the fulfillment of righteousness.
3. **We witness for the 1st time the evidence** of the Triune God. Jesus the lamb is baptized, The Holy Spirit descending like a dove. The Father's voice declaring His pleasure with His Son.

**Knowing What to Allow in 2024*

1. **Allow your knowledge of God's love to be active** in your choices of how we treat one another.
2. **Allow your knowledge of God's coming wrath** to make you fervent in prayer.
3. **Use your permission to act alongside God in helping others** see God's righteousness.