

Foster City Campus – October 15, 2017



Sermon Title: HE > I

Text: Matthew 3: 1-17 - Dan Reid

1. Who do you know exhibits greatness qualities that Jesus described about John the Baptist?
2. Read verses 1-12. What do we know about John the Baptist? Why is John's message of repentance and warning so important at this beginning stage of Jesus' Ministry?
3. What does it say that so many people responded with obedience to John's message? Why is repentance such a healthy practice for Christians?
4. What does "fruit in keeping with repentance" look like? How can repentance lead to joy and reconciliation in relationships?
5. John tells us that Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and Fire? What has God revealed in you that needs to "feel the heat" so you can be all that God wants you to be?
6. Read verses 13-17. What impresses you most after reading about Jesus' Baptism? What did Jesus mean when he said, "*it is proper to do this to fulfill all righteousness*"? How does Jesus' baptism help us understand that Jesus must identify with us, so that we might identify with him?
7. How has your relationship with the Holy Spirit grown over the years? Do you think you underestimate the the power of the Holy Spirit to change your life? Discuss how the Holy Spirit becomes a more fresh and powerful presence in all areas of your life.
8. What are the fondest memories you have about your own water baptism? If you have yet to be baptized, what questions do you have getting baptized?



Text: Matthew 3.1-17 - Kevin Sneed

1. The central message of John the Baptist is found in Matthew 3.2, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” The word “repent” in the combination of two Greek words, “Meta” meaning to change and “noia” meaning thinking, knowledge, worldview.

How does this definition of repentance alter how you view repentance? With this in mind, what does it mean to “repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near”?

2. Author Dallas Willard defines the Kingdom of God as “the range of his [God’s] effective will, where what he wants done is done.”

How would you put that in your own words? If you were to hold that view, what would it mean to pray, “Thy kingdom come,” in the Lord’s prayer?

3. The offer of the availability of the kingdom of God is for all of us. But it requires us to repent or put another way, we must reorganize the entirety of our lives around the Kingdom of God’s arrival.

In what ways are you holding to your own kingdom and refusing to enter into the reality of the Kingdom of God? In what ways have you seen your life transformed by living into the reality of the Kingdom of God?