

Matthew 04 “The Voice” Matthew 3:1-6

Any king in the ancient world had heralds who were people out in front of him such as those on the point in a military organization and these heralds would precede the king into cities and announce his arrival so that proper preparation could be made in order to render honor to the king.

The eight different baptisms found in Scripture are divided into two categories and the first is real or dry baptisms of which there are five and a real baptism is nothing more than an actual identification.

On the Cross, our Lord also rejected the human good in man which comes from his area of strength in his sinful nature and from that time on, all human good is rejected as far as God is concerned because He can NEVER under any circumstances accept energy of the flesh inspired works.

Ritual without reality behind it is meaningless and water baptism is the ritual picture of the real but invisible baptism by the Holy Spirit.

So, according to Matthew, John was preaching and there isn't much more about him that's revealed and the reason for that is: it's NOT about the man, it's all about the man's message! The point is that through biblical truth in his human spirit and by his declaration of it, the public no longer saw John's personality although his personality was obviously still there.

Even though John was a very dominant personality, his message phased him out and substituted someone else and that is what preaching Jesus Christ is all about!

So, John not only talked about Jesus Christ; he explained how to enter into an eternal relationship with Him and the way of salvation is found in the words repent and believe which are two sides of the same coin.

As far as the man with the message is concerned, God will provide the hearers.

Feeling sorry for sins never saved anyone and never will.

The subject of Matthew is King Jesus and the kingdom of Heaven refers to the kingdom that Jesus will have in eternity.

And when the King is on earth, the kingdom is on earth and therefore the kingdom of God is life and the kingdom of Heaven is life!

The kingdom of Heaven approaches in the Person of the King, the only Savior and therefore, entrance into the kingdom of God is based upon believing in the King of kings.

The communication of God's Word is not a popularity contest; it's the study of biblical truth first and then it's the communication of that biblical truth to man.

John was a conduit and through him flowed God's power and God's message.

God established the pattern for the ministry when He sent John out into the desert where there are no people.

There are many born-again believers today who want to teach the Bible but their ministries are destroyed because they are compromising with religion; so they've NOT separated themselves from apostasy.

Preachers come and go but the Word of God abides forever.

The present tense use of the word confessing meaning that they were doing it at the point of their baptism indicates that this was a post-salvation experience and was not in any way identified with their salvation.