

Year A - Second Sunday of Advent

Matthew 3:1-9, 11

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.



John the Baptist started preaching in the desert of Judea.

He said, "Turn back to God!

The kingdom of heaven will soon be here."

John was the one the prophet Isaiah was talking about, when he said,

"In the desert someone is shouting,

'Get the road ready for the Lord!

Make a straight path for him.'"

"John wore clothes made of camel's hair.

He had a leather strap around his waist

and ate grasshoppers and wild honey.

From Jerusalem and all Judea and from the Jordan River

Valley

crowds of people went to John.

They told how sorry they were for their sins,

and he baptised them in the river.

Many Pharisees and Sadducees also came to be baptised.

But John said to them: "You bunch of snakes!

Who warned you to run from the coming judgment?

Do something to show that you have really given up your sins.

And don't start telling yourselves

that you belong to Abraham's family.

I tell you that God can turn these stones

into children for Abraham.

"I baptise you with water so that you will give up your sins.

But someone more powerful is going to come,

and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."



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Someone more powerful is coming



Introduction • John the Baptist had a very special job to do. His job was to tell people that the Lord was coming and help them get ready.

Message

- John the Baptist knew that was what he was meant to do and he dedicated his whole life to doing that. He baptised people in the River Jordan and told them all about the Lord who is coming and will send the Holy Spirit to them.
- Sometimes when we think about getting ready for something, we think about the outside. If you're getting ready for a special occasion you might dress up nice, if you're getting ready for a party you might clean the house and get food ready.
- But when John was telling people to get ready for the Lord, he was talking about get ready on the outside, he was talking about get ready on in the inside. Get your heart and your Spirit ready for the Lord.
- Advent is all about getting ready on the inside. Preparing our hearts and our spirits for the birth of Jesus. So the words of John the Baptist are relevant to us today as they were to the people of Jerusalem 2000 years ago 'Get ready for the Lord'.



Discussion Questions

- What was the job of John the Baptist?
- How did he help people get ready for the Lord?
- What do you think it means to prepare our hearts and spirits for the Lord?