

HOW TO BE READY

JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY
MATTHEW 3:1-12

Tim Goodall
15 December 2013



1

READY FOR WHAT?

4 Ways:

1. Repent
2. Bear fruit
3. Rely on Christ alone
4. Recognise judgment is coming

2

REPENT

John the Baptist

- v.2 – Repent!
- A call to purity before God.
- Baptism – single, symbolic act of preparation
- Holy Spirit – transforms our hearts

Today

- Single, symbolic act marking entry into new relationship with God
- Not entry without repentance
- Jesus & disciples agree Matt. 4:17 & Acts 2:38
- Have you repented? Are you baptised?

3

PRODUCE FRUIT

John the Baptist

- v.8 – produce fruit!
- Not good words, but right actions (Luke 3)
- Practical outworking of repentance

Today

- Fruit – a sign of repentance
- Practical outworking of repentance
- Act justly, love mercy.
- At Christmas? Care for the homeless? Open your home?

4

IN CHRIST ALONE

John the Baptist

- Nationhood – v.9
- Abraham is our father = we're okay.
- True relationship with God = faith in him **now**.

Today

- Reliant on Christ alone for our salvation.
- Easy to agree with, difficult to do.
- Don't make same mistake as Jews!

5

JUDGMENT COMING

John the Baptist

- Christ's coming brings judgment too – v.10 & 12
- Message is urgent!
- Repent before it's too late!

Today

- Christ will return to judge the dead and alive.
- Repent now before it's too late!
- Grace is only grace if set against the background of coming judgment.

6

ARE YOU READY?

7