

THE GOSPEL OF  
**MATTHEW**

**Date:** January 7, 2024

**Key Scripture:** Matthew 3:1-12

## **The Role of Repentance**

### **1) Repentance opens the path to reconciliation with God**

2 Corinthians 5:17–19 ... *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."*

### **2) Repentance opens the path to be saved from God's wrath.**

John 3:36 ... *"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."*

### **3) Repentance opens the path to receive the Holy Spirit.**

Ephesians 1:13 ... *"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,"*

## Application Questions

- 1) Why is repentant necessary to bring healing to a broken relationship?
- 2) In what circumstances do you find yourself struggling to repent and turning to the false repentance of minimizing, blame shifting, or self-pity? Why?
- 3) Repentance is a regular practice in the Christian life as we endeavor to follow Jesus. Ask a close friend or family member if they feel you are quick to repent of sin or if you are resistant. (Don't get defensive. Listen and prayerfully consider their response).

## From the Resources

“John’s message was not a mere negative denunciation; it was a positive erecting of the moral standards of God. He not only denounced men for what they had done; he summoned them to what they ought to do. He not only condemned men for what they were; he challenged them to be what they could be. He was like a voice calling men to higher things. He not only rebuked evil, he also set before men the good.

It may well be that there have been times when the church was too occupied in telling men what not to do; and too little occupied in setting before them the height of the Christian ideal.”

William Barclay *The Gospel of Matthew Volume 1* The Daily Study Bible Series.