

# Sermon Outline

## Actions Suitable to Repentance

### Matthew 3:1-12

- I. John the Baptizer vv. 1-6
    - His consecration – Lk 1:15-17
      - A Nazirite<sup>1</sup> from birth Numb 6:1-8, 12
      - The ministry of Elijah Mal 4:6
      - Fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy Is 40:3 (*cf.* Lk 1:76-79)
    - His ministry – Lk 1:80; Mt 3:1-4
      - The call to repent Mt 3:2, 8; Lk 3:10-14
      - His baptism Mt 3:5-6
        - Not offering forgiveness, but preparation for it
        - See Acts 19:1-5
  - II. The problem of religiosity vv. 7-10
    - The Pharisees and Sadducees
      - Sadducees: skeptics (no angels, miracles, resurrection)
      - Pharisees: literalists, diligent (*see* Phil 3:4-6)
      - Both groups saw John's baptism as merely a ritual act
      - After John's recrimination, they refused Lk 7:30
    - Our righteousness will not see us into God's grace
      - Rom 3:10-12, 20, 23-24; Is 64:6; Rom 1:18-22
  - III. Producing the fruit of repentance vv. 11-12
    - Preparation for the grace of God in Christ
      - Prophecy about Jesus Lk 3:15-17; Jn 1:29-31, 36
    - Actions suitable to repentance
      - Explained by John – Lk 3:10-14 (*see* Lk 19:1-10)
- We must:
- A. **Not** be like Sadducees, resting in scientific rationalism
  - B. **Not** be like Pharisees, resting in our religiosity
  - C. **But** demonstrate a repentant acceptance of God's mercies  
(as Zacchaeus did)

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<sup>1</sup> The consecration [of a Nazirite] is not an ascetic separation but an expression of loyalty to God in which forms of abstinence are illustrative rather than constitutive. \_ J.C. Rylaarsdam