**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr, February 12, 2023**

**A Strange Preacher With A Strong Message**

Matthew 3:1-12

**Key Truth:** John the Baptist’s preaching reminds us that God is calling us to turn from our sins, turn to Jesus, and trust in Him as Savior.

**Preaching In The Wilderness:**

1. John had a unique ministry and mission. Luke 1:5-17, Isaiah 40:3,

 Malachi 3:1-3, 4:5,

2. John’s appearance and diet was strange and his message was

 even stranger.

3. John’s message was passionate, yet loving.

 A. He warned of judgment if the people refused to turn to the

 Messiah in repentance.

 4. Many received John’s message and demonstrated repentance

 through baptism.

**What We Learn:**

1. Repentance is more than saying “I’m sorry”. Matthew 3:7-8

 A. To repent means turning from sin and even from ourselves,

 and turning to God.

 B. Repentance expresses itself in outward acts. Luke 3:10-14

2. It doesn’t matter how religious or good you think you are;

 you still need Jesus.

3. The church must maintain our commitment in pointing

 people to repentance and trust in Jesus Christ.

4. Baptism is still an important aspect of the Christian life.

 Matthew 28:19-20

**Taking It Beyond The Walls**: Thank God for the message of salvation and the grace of repentance. Look for opportunities to share the love of Jesus Christ with others.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Have you ever had an encounter with a street preacher? If so, what was that experience like? What are your feelings toward a street-preacher type of evangelism?

Read Luke 3:19-20: What do we learn about John the Baptist from this passage?

Read Luke 1:76-79. What did Zechariah prophesy, or tell in advance, about his son in that passage? How do you see John the Baptist fulfilling his father’s words in Matthew 3? How does this relate to what we read about John the Baptist in John 1:6-9?

Read Luke 3:10-14: What does it mean to repent? How would you explain your experience of repentance to an unbeliever?

1 John 1:9 Why do Christians, even though we are saved, need to live a lifestyle of repenting daily?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-20: What do you recall about the moment you decided to follow Christ? What do you recall about the message?

Most believers know we are supposed to share Christ, but we don’t do it. Why not?

Who are the people in your circle of influence who may never have clearly heard this message of salvation? What is a feasible next step you can take to share the message of salvation with them?