



# TO PREPARE THE WAY

MATTHEW 3

## I. The way of the Lord begins by \_\_\_\_\_ Christ as King.

*In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" vv. 1-3*

<b>JOHN'S BAPTISM IN MATTHEW 3</b>	<b>CHRISTIAN BAPTISM TODAY</b>
<i>Symbolic immersion</i>	<i>Symbolic immersion</i>
<i>In anticipation of a coming King</i>	<i>Identification with our resurrected King</i>
<i>Awaited the Holy Spirit</i>	<i>Already indwelt with the Holy Spirit upon belief</i>

**PLEDGE YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ TO CHRIST** both privately and publicly.

## II. The way of the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ by living a life under Christ's kingship.

*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham." vv. 7-9*

**REALIGN \_\_\_\_\_ AREAS OF YOUR LIFE** to show Who you ultimately belong to.

## III. The way of the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ by God's presence, power and pleasure.

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." vv. 13-17*

**FIND YOUR \_\_\_\_\_** in knowing Whose you are and how He feels about you.



## DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

1. Read Matthew chapter 3. Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan specifically to be baptized by John. Why do you think Jesus did this, especially since John's baptism was one of repentance?

**FOR THIS WEEK**

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:**  
**MATTHEW 3:17**  
*... and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

**JOURNAL:**  
 Matthew 3:1-17

**THE TRINITY**

**There is one God.** (Deut 6:4)  
**The Father is God.** (Jn 6:27)  
**The Son is God.** (Jn 1:1)  
**The Spirit is God.** (Acts 5:3-4)  
**The Son is not the Father.** (Jn 20:17)  
**The Son is not the Spirit.** (Jn 14:16)  
**The Spirit is not the Father.** (Jn 14:26)  
**There is one God, not three.** (1 Cor 8:6)

**WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?**

**Obligation** - to fulfill all righteousness (Jn 8:29)  
**Consecration** - the OT priest was washed then anointed, as Jesus was anointed by a dove (Ex 29)  
**Commendation** - publicly approving John's ministry so others would obey God instead of religious leaders (Jn 21:23-27)  
**Proclamation** - John's official introduction of Jesus to the Jewish nation (Jn 1:31)  
**Anticipation** - looking forward to His baptism of suffering on the cross (Lk 12:50)  
**Identification** - to identify Himself with mankind, being driven into the wilderness and tempted immediately afterward (Lev 16:1-10)

### JOURNAL Matthew 3:1-17

As you sit in private with Jesus at this moment, in what ways would you say your allegiance to Jesus should also be publicly proclaimed?

As you sit and study Scripture alone, your identity in Jesus can seem clear to you. But is it as clear in other contexts? Where do you tend to look for affirmation at those times, instead of the Lord?

2. Why did John try to deter Jesus from being baptized? What did John misunderstand about what Jesus was doing?

3. The pastor talked in his sermon about *making the path straight*. What does this mean, and how does it affect your own life?

4. What area of your public life are incongruent with an allegiance to Jesus as King? What does it look like for you to take a stand for Jesus in the public areas of your life?

5. How does the Lord feel about you? Cite Scripture in your answer. Why is it so important that you have a firm grasp on this concept? How does the way He feels about you encourage your allegiance to Him?

## COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/events](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/events). That's a great spot to see what's coming up!

**DATING, ENGAGED, OR NEWLEY MARRIED?** AVENEW is a great place to discover God's mission for your relationship and learn practical ways to love and honor one another through life's highs and lows. To learn more visit [ccbcfamily.org/avenew](http://ccbcfamily.org/avenew) and register for the upcoming class that starts Sunday, Jan. 9.

**HEY YOUNG ADULTS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS! COME TO RENOVATE.** We are a community of young adults being renovated by Jesus, for Jesus. We are for those who are far off ... to be brought near to a gracious and worthy God. And we are for those near... to be sent out to a radical and obedient mission. Come join us this Wednesday, Jan. 5 to experience a time of fellowship, growth and worship. We can't wait to see you there. To learn more visit [ccbcfamily.org/renovate](http://ccbcfamily.org/renovate).

**RE|ENGAGE YOUR MARRIAGE.** re|engage offers hope to marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through stories of grace, teaching and small groups. Classes start Jan. 9, and you can find registration online at [ccbcfamily.org/reengage](http://ccbcfamily.org/reengage).

**BAND OF BROTHERS: ALIENS AND STRANGERS** As disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to live differently than the rest of the world and remember that this place is not our final destination. Join Band of Brothers as we step into a study of 1 Peter and learn how to live out our calling even when it collides with the culture. For more information visit [ccbcfamily.org/ministries/men](http://ccbcfamily.org/ministries/men).

**WOMEN IN THE WORD: A STUDY OF 1 SAMUEL** Whether you are experiencing the blessing of joy and hope or a season of tragedy and loss, the story of beautiful, redemptive love is still your story too. This Spring join Women in the Word as we study 1 Samuel and see how the lives of God's people play a part in the story of salvation. To learn more visit [ccbcfamily.org/ministries/women](http://ccbcfamily.org/ministries/women).

**JOIN A HOME GROUP!** Life is best lived in a community and we want to help you find that! Home Groups are a place where you can come together with fellow believers in your life stage and grow together in your walk with the Lord, as well as live life together. This Spring, join a small group and get connected with fellow believers here at Christ Chapel. A small group is how a big place starts to feel small. To learn more visit us online at [ccbcfamily.org/events](http://ccbcfamily.org/events).

**LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD?** Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE.** The process is quick and easy—text CCBCFW to 833-422-7200 to get started.

**KEEP US CLOSE WITH THE CHRIST CHAPEL APP.** While you're away from Christ Chapel, our app will keep everything you need within reach. On the app you'll find today's sermon notes, an easy way to give, past messages, opportunities to connect, a quick way to send in prayer requests and more. Download it from the App Store or Google Play.