

**Connection Sunday – July 4th, 2010** – This month we are covering Pastor Jim’s sermons over Matthew 3 & 4. If you are not yet involved in Connection, pray about what family or families you could possibly meet with for fellowship, discussion and prayer. If you do not want to meet with another family, please consider taking some time together in your own family discussing the questions below and praying together. The goal is building each other up in the Lord and our individual relationships with Jesus Christ. Please contact your flock elder or the church office if you are not yet “connected” and interested in either starting or finding a group. May God richly bless your time together honoring Him and fellowshiping together as a family around His Word!!

## **TBC Connection – July 4, 2010 Matthew 3 & 4**

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Genuine repentance requires a knowledge of sin, sorrow for sin, and turning from sin to obey God. From Matthew 3:2, what happens when we try to repent without a knowledge of sin? Without sorrow for sin? Without turning from sin?
2. In reference to John’s call to repentance in Matthew 3:2, what is the difference between true sorrow for sin versus feeling: a) guilty because I was caught?; b) upset because of the consequences?; or c) being ashamed?
3. What does the “*fruit of repentance*” referenced in Matthew 3:8 look like? What are it’s characteristics? (also Matt.5:2-12)
4. Since Jesus could not have sinned because He is God, how can he still be our example? (*recall the swimmer and the boat illustration from Pastor Jim’s sermon*)
5. Do you truly believe and “live” a life based on “every word that comes from the mouth of God” as Jesus states to Satan in Matthew 4:3-4? If not, why not?
6. How might you be tempted to stop trusting in God’s care for you? (Matt.4:3-7) Or to gain the world and all it offers in exchange for your soul? (Matt.4:8-10, Luke 9:25)
7. What is most striking to you about the Sermon on the Mount (Matt, 5-7)? How would you summarize the central point of what Jesus said? What personal applications stand out most to you?

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## **CONNECTION Leader Notes – Matthew 3 & 4:1-11** July 4, 2010

<b>Key Verses</b>
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**Matthew 3:1-17** In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 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.'" 4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5

Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 "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. 10 "Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12 "His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, [fn] and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, [fn] with whom I am well pleased."

**Matthew 4:1-11** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

*Additional reference verses on "repentance" shown below*

## Discussion Questions

8. Genuine repentance requires a knowledge of sin, sorrow for sin, and turning from sin to obey God. From Matthew 3:2, what happens when we try to repent without a knowledge of sin? Without sorrow for sin? Without turning from sin?
9. In reference to John's call to repentance in Matthew 3:2, what is the difference between true sorrow for sin versus feeling: a) guilty because I was caught?; b) upset because of the consequences?; or c) being ashamed?
10. What does the "*fruit of repentance*" referenced in Matthew 3:8 look like? What are its characteristics? (also Matt.5:2-12)
11. Since Jesus could not have sinned because He is God, how can he still be our example? (*recall the swimmer and the boat illustration from Pastor Jim's sermon*)
12. Do you truly believe and "live" a life based on "every word that comes from the mouth of God" as Jesus states to Satan in Matthew 4:3-4? If not, why not?
13. How might you be tempted to stop trusting in God's care for you? (Matt.4:3-7) Or to gain the world and all it offers in exchange for your soul? (Matt.4:8-10, Luke 9:25)

14. What is most striking to you about the Sermon on the Mount (Matt, 5-7)? How would you summarize the central point of what Jesus said? What personal applications stand out most to you?

### Additional Supporting Verses

#### Repent, Repentance

Matt. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Mar 6:12 So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.

Luke 5:32 "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Luke 13:3 "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Luke 15:7 "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Luke 15:10 "Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 17:3 "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,

Luke 17:4 "and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

Luke 24:47 "and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,

Acts 5:31 "God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 8:22 "Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Acts 17:30 "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

Acts 20:21 "testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:20 "but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

Roms 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

2 Cor.7:10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

2 Cor.12:21 I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced.

2 Tim. 2:25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

Hebr 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Hebr 6:4 For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,

Hebr 12:17 For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Rev 2:5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Rev 2:16 "Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.  
Rev 2:21 "I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. 22 "Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works,  
Rev 3:3 "Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.  
Rev 3:19 "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.  
Rev 9:20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshipping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,  
Rev 16:9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.  
Rev 16:11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

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