

**REPENTANCE IS NOT OPTIONAL**  
*Matthew 3:1-12 // January 1, 2023 PM*

**I. You must turn from sin, grieving and hating it (vv. 1-6).**

**II. You must turn to God, purposing and endeavoring after new obedience (vv. 7-9).**

**III. You must turn to God, apprehending His blessings and curses (vv. 10-12).**

**QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP**

1. Who arises in the wilderness preaching God's word? According to Isaiah 40, what is the purpose of John's preaching and baptizing?
2. What does it mean to repent? What reason does John give for why people should repent?
3. What figure does John's strange clothing remind us of? Why is this important?
4. What does John mean when he tells us to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (v. 8)? What is the relationship between repentance and living for God?
5. John rebukes the religious leaders for trusting in their blood-relation to Abraham (v. 9). Why is it not enough to be from the physical line of Abraham?
6. How is Jesus's baptism superior to John's? Will it result in salvation or judgment? Or both?
7. Is repentance something we only do one time when we enter into Christ's kingdom? Or is it something we need to do all the time as imperfect citizens of Christ's kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION**

1. Am I convinced that repentance and the preaching of it are non-negotiable and absolutely vital if God's kingdom blessing would be known by sinners?
2. Have I and am I continuing to turn from my sin to God?
3. Am I bearing fruit in keeping with repentance?