

RIP YOUR REP AND RUN TO JESUS

Matthew 3² [John]: Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

3¹⁷ and behold a voice from the heavens saying, *This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well-pleased.*

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Series Theme: *Jesus reveals a Father who is worthy of your trust.*

God rips his reputation to redeem a remnant who rip their reps too.

**ONE: Seekers Must Seek Where They Can Find
3.1-12**

Mat

Outside the Approved and Comfortable (Jerusalem)

Outside the Approved and Comfortable (Always Repenting)
Facing the Father's expectation of fruitfulness

Facing our failures (Kingdom: personal, justice, stewardship)

**TWO: Messengers Model the Message in Meekness
3.11**

Mat

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 fire.

THREE: The Savior Shepherds according to the Father's Good Pleasure

Mat 3.13-17

¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

Questions for interaction and study?

1. What are some of ways in the last few weeks that you have shaded the truth to protect your "reputation"?
2. Since the kingdom is to affect a/ personal spirituality & morality, b/ justice and righteousness in society and c/ stewardship & restoration of the physical creation (including stewardship of our wealth), where might you be in need of repentance?
3. In what ways is John the Baptist's attitude and deference toward Jesus a good model for any believer, especially those who lead and teach in any way?
4. The immediate context to Jesus' words: *Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness*, is the heavens opening and the Father's approval of his Son (3.17). This would appear to be saying that Jesus' humbling himself to identify with the repenting remnant who will believe is what the Father is approving. Do we find this affirmed or illustrated in other scripture? What about Philippians 3:25ff? 2Cor 5:21? Hebrews? Where else?
5. How are Jesus' followers to apply question "4"?