

Everyday Faith

BISHOP MARTYN

Matthew 3: 1-10

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around 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 his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Kathleen Norris – ‘*Acedia and me*’

"Repentance means not primarily a sense of regret, but a renunciation of narrow and sectarian human views that are not large enough for God's mystery. It means recognizing that we have not always seen grace where it exists in the world and agreeing to turn away from a stubborn and obdurate position that cannot accept what is new and different and therefore cannot entertain God's mysterious ways."

Archbishop William Temple

"To repent is to adopt God's point of view in place of your own. There need not be any sorrow about it. In itself, far from being sorrowful, it is the most joyful thing in the world, because when you have done it, you have adopted the viewpoint of truth itself, and you are in fellowship with God."

metanoia

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A TOTAL CHANGE IN
ONE'S WAY OF LIFE, A
TURNING AROUND,
WHICH COMES AS A
RESULT OF A
COMPLETE CHANGE
IN THOUGHT AND
ATTITUDE.

Luke 3

10 And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

Rowan Williams

“The death of Christ is not only the end of Christ’s mortal life, but the death of the bonds between him and his followers, and the ‘death’ of whatever hope or faith had become possible in his presence prior to Good Friday.” When Christ dies, the potential of what he could have done as part of his earthly ministry also dies. What is more, the potential achievements of his followers also die; his disciples are frightened, scattered, and separated. This, Williams argues, reflects the limits of human striving. Thankfully, scripture shows us that the hope of the Gospel was never the hope of what might be accomplished through an earthy life. Repentance, in fact, only happens when we give up the hope that we can accomplish anything through our skill or striving.”

