



God With Us - Week Two

“Baptism by Fire”

Matthew 3:1-12

What burns you up will make you stronger.

It's the season of Advent - a time of expectation

Advent helps us prepare our hearts for the coming Christ and a new world.

Jesus' arrival is both a now and a not yet—how do we live in this tension?

Today, we are going to encounter the wildness of John the Baptizer and hear a short sermon that is meant to light a fire under us.

Fire and Brimstone Sermons—What purpose do they serve?

Some glimpses into how they work, and why they get preached

The Psychology of Sermons that use guilt and fear

Despite the negative implications, is there something we need to hear?

John the Baptist shows up in the lectionary text to shake us up.

He preaches about a baptism by fire—what did he mean?

WHAT BURNS YOU UP WILL MAKE YOU STRONGER

Matthew 3:1-12

- *“In those days...” John's connection to the ancient Hebrew prophets.*
- *Connections to Joel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, but also Elijah.*
- *His dress, diet, sermons, and location were all intentional.*
- *He preached a baptism of repentance, which clashed with the elites.*
- *John calls them out and preaches some fire-and-brimstone to them.*

John declares that going through the motions, hedging your bets, playing all sides isn't enough—true change and transformation is what is needed.

Some Important Questions

1. *What are we holding on to that is keeping us from being “all in?”*
2. *What would true repentance look like for us?*
3. *Are we willing to allow a baptism by fire to wholly consume us?*

WHAT BURNS YOU UP WILL MAKE YOU STRONGER



SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Honest Advent

Scott Erickson

Watch For The Light

Various Authors

Advent And Christmas Wisdom

Henri Nouwen

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