

## 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***



# GOD WITH US

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## 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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