



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
R O C H E S T E R

**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
**June 7, 2026**

**Refresh**

Read Matthew 3:7-12 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

**Discuss**

Why do you think John the Baptist addressed the Pharisees and Sadducees so harshly? What does this reveal about the dangers of religious pride?

John told the religious leaders to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (v. 8). What are some identifiable fruits of genuine repentance that a believer should regularly exhibit?

The Pharisees trusted in their heritage as descendants of Abraham. What modern-day things are people tempted to trust in instead of Christ alone? What might help us rightly identify what we are ultimately trusting in when it comes to our standing before God?

How would you explain the relationship between repentance, faith, and good works? What are the dangers of misunderstanding the relationship of repentance, faith, and good works? Why is it important to understand that spiritual fruit is the result of salvation rather than the cause of it?

John described judgment as an axe already laid at the root of the tree (Matthew 3:10). How should the certainty and urgency of God's coming judgment affect the way Christians live and share the gospel today? How can we grow in our "gospel urgency" as believers every day?

John repeatedly emphasized that Jesus is greater than he is, in power, baptism, and judgment. What can we learn from John's humility, and how can we cultivate that same heart posture in our own lives?

Consider this question: "What are you ultimately trusting in?" If someone examined your life, what evidence would they see that your confidence rests in Christ alone rather than in your own righteousness or achievements? What are the marks of someone who is trusting in Christ alone for their salvation?