



Application:

- 1) Based on the meaning of “repent” in terms of preparing to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, what is God asking you to turn from in order to turn toward Him?
- 2) Based on the meaning of “repent” in terms of already being a Christian, what do you believe God is asking you to change in order to live in line with Jesus’ teachings for 2019?
- 3) Contemplate this quote:

“The kingdom [spoken of in Matthew 3:2] is not currently a geographical entity, but it manifests itself in space and time in the community of those who accept the message John and Jesus proclaimed and who began to work out God’s purpose on earth—personally, socially, and institutionally.”
– Craig Blomberg

- ✚ What are the ways God desires for you to work out God’s purposes on earth *personally*?
- ✚ What are the ways God desires for you to work out God’s purposes on earth *socially*? [amongst your friends, family, and neighbors]
- ✚ What are the ways God desires for your to work out God’s purposes *institutionally*? [with your church]

Matthew 3:1 *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,*

*“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”*

John was asking his hearers to repent...

- ✚ Repent = “to change their way of life as a result of a complete change of thought and attitude with regard to sin and righteousness.” – Craig Blomberg, NT Scholar
- ✚ Kingdom implies...the rule of a King.
- ✚ John was the “road-paver” for Jesus into your heart.

BI: We need to examine ourselves through the lens “Jesus is KING” and adjust our lives accordingly so that Jesus can work out His purposes on earth through us: personally, socially, and institutionally.

Open Mic Sharing –

- ✚ How has God worked in your life in 2018?
- ✚ What do you look forward to the Lord doing in 2019?