

## **Reproducing To Survive**

**Matthew 3:1-6** <sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' " <sup>4</sup> And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him <sup>6</sup> and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

*Documentary "Caffeinated" 3<sup>rd</sup> generation coffee grower said of all the things my father taught me the most important thing was that he showed me how to love and have a passion for the land. If we are to continue in what God has for us we are going to have to develop a passion for what we do.*

## **I. The Passion Of The Message.**

A. We are all called to declare the hope and life changing power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. This is where we find John the Baptist in our text, and his message was simple, "Repent". *VS. 1-2.* <sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

2. From this time until now the challenge to declare that message hasn't changed.

a. This was the Great commission we read about in *Mark 16:15* <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

3. The apostle Paul writes in many of his greetings I am committed to declare this message, I'm committed to live by this message, not for my benefit but so that you all can grow.

a. Many times saying by the will of God I am connected to this my will is God's will. This must be our prayer.

B. So if the challenge to declare the message of the gospel hasn't changed, what has? I believe very simply it's that our passion to declare this message has grown cold.

1. This happens from time to time in life, we all have a tendency to lose interest\ passion in what we are doing.

2. This is part of human nature. Reasons people lose interest\passion or zeal for the message.

a. **Time:** Over time things have a tendency to digress. This can happen spiritually, if we have been saved for any length of time we can get comfortable or worse give up on not outreaching, evangelizing, giving, reading our bible, or prayer. We must understand the urgency in John the Baptist's voice because Time can cause us to lose our passion for the message. *VS 2.* <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

b. **Location:** Where you are at in life. Many of us are waiting to do something for God until ALL the conditions are perfect. They will never be perfect.

i) In our text we see that John the Baptist is in the wilderness, it's dry there, it's hot, it's uncomfortable, but nevertheless he doesn't allow this to affect his passion.

c. **Fear:** The message of repentance is not without controversy. Evangelism is the collision of souls and many fear the reproach that comes with preaching\ declaring the Gospel.

*Romans 1:16-17* <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

d. **Carnality:** Perhaps the greatest enemy to our passion for the things of God is carnality. We may still be coming to church, were not backslidden, it's just that we indulge in the appetites of our lower nature.

*Romans 8:6-7* <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God;

C. So the challenge for every believer is to maintain the passion for this incredible message that has the power to bring salvation, change, and deliver all who would hear and receive it. *1 Corinthians 1:17-18* <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. <sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*Romans 10:14* <sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

## **II. The Response To The Message.**

A. If we are faithful to do our part God is faithful to bring us in contact with those who need to hear the message.

1. In our text we read that People are drawn to this wilderness to hear what is being preached.

a. This means that the gospel message will work anywhere, under any condition, no matter who you are.

*VS. 4-6. <sup>4</sup> And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him <sup>6</sup> and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins*

2. The Bible mentions things for a reason. In verse 4 *<sup>4</sup> And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.*

a. He wasn't perfect he was rough and ordinary. But God chose to use this ordinary man to deliver an extraordinary message.

i) This shows us the grace of God that he's not looking for perfection, just one who is willing to declare the good news of salvation and repentance.

3. If we would rise up to declare this this supernatural message, God will trigger a supernatural response.

*VS 5. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him*

a. The scripture records that people came from all around. Into the wilderness, the desert, the dryness.

i) I believe this speaks to the spiritual climate of the age, the people are looking for hope, answers, there was a spirit of expectancy,

b. People want to know there is hope and they will listen to you when you speak the message of the gospel.

4. Not only does our text give us the hope that the people will come it shows us that they will respond.

*VS 6. <sup>6</sup> and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins*

a. God will bless and honor our labors and we too can see fruit that not only remains but also multiplies.

*Mark 4:20 <sup>20</sup> But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."*

### **III. Reproducing To Survive**

A. God has placed within all of creation the capacity to reproduce. It was his plan from the beginning of creation, all the way up until now.

1. Every single believer should have this element of fruitfulness working in our lives, in our salvation.

2. There are many events that are constantly going on where people are getting saved, and we share and have a part in that.

a. This is why my challenge to you is not on a corporate level but rather on an individual level.

B. What are you reproducing today? Where are your spiritual sons and daughters?

1. When we are introduced to John the Baptist in our text he is preaching alone, but later on we read that he has disciples of his own people in whom he is investing in, imparting his spirit into so that they to could go and preach the gospel.

*Acts 19:1-7 <sup>1</sup> And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples <sup>2</sup> he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup> And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup> Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." <sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> Now the men were about twelve in all.*

C. God want to use us if its passion that has faded, pray that God would renew it. Ask him to bring you into contact with those who are ready to receive salvation, and pray that God will make us a fruitful people.

1. New converts are the life of any congregation, not religious people, new converts. We need new converts.