

# **Matthew 3:1-15**

June 24, 2018 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**Luke 7:28** - Jesus said, "Among those born of women there is no one greater than \_\_\_\_\_."

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## **1. John's message was the same as Jesus' message.**

**Matthew 4:17** - From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Matthew 7:19** - Jesus said, "Every tree that doesn't bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

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## **2. John's message promoted a change of mind and a change of heart.**

The Greek word for repent is: metanoia.

- **Meta** = carries the idea of **change**.
- **Nous** = mind

**2 Timothy 2:24-26** - A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses, and escape the snare of the devil.

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## **3. John's message was: "Prepare."**

### **Four obstacles that interfere with our relationship with God.**

**Obstacle #1 - Secret sin**

**Obstacle #2 - Self-centeredness**

***God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*** (James 4:6)

**Obstacle #3 - Loving things more than Christ**

**Jesus:** "The cares of the world, the lure of wealth and the desire for other things choke the word, making it unfruitful." (Mark 4:19)

**Obstacle #4 - Indifference**

**Jesus:** "Because you're lukewarm, I'll spit you out of My mouth." (Rev. 3:16)

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## **4. John's message focused on Christ.**

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**John 3:26-30** - John's disciples came to him and said, "Rabbi, the Man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to Him instead of coming to us." John replied... "I told you, 'I'm not the Messiah. I'm only here to prepare the way for Him.' The bridegroom marries the bride, and the best man is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I'm filled with joy at His success. He must become greater; I must become less."

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