

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him.'"

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

(Matthew 3:1-12, NIV)

Distractions block our focus on God



A green highway sign with rounded corners is mounted on a metal lattice structure. The sign is centered with the word "Repent!" in a white, sans-serif font. The background of the image is a clear blue sky above a yellowish, hazy horizon.

Repent!



But repentance is not a quiet, peaceful feeling like on many holiday cards

Repentance requires action





Repentance is a lifestyle
of bearing good fruit

Repentance
requires us to
submit to Jesus



In repentance we reflect
God's priorities in our lives



A gravel path winds through a forest. On the left side of the path, there is a dense row of red flowers and green foliage. On the right side, there are dark green bushes. The path is made of light-colored gravel and leads into a wooded area with many trees in the background.

What will you do this week
as an act of repentance?

