

No Third Choice

August 25, 2019

Matthew 3:5-12

John the Baptist

Who were the Pharisees and Sadducees?

John's Message to them:

1. Produce fruit in keeping with repentance

"The evidence of real inner spiritual life is always the fruit of a changed external life. The arrival of the kingdom will bring with it real spiritual life that produces change from the inside out."

2. It's not enough to be children of Abraham

"Those who respond to John's message and repent will escape God's wrath. But it must be an individual's personal response to God; one's religious or ethnic heritage will not help. People must come to God as repentant individuals without prior religious claims to advantage with God."

No Third Choice: The Time is Now

-Trees

-Grain

"We can create a warped view of God and the gospel by overemphasizing the judgment to come, but we just as surely distort people's view if we minimize the reality of judgment."

"The arrival of God's kingdom in the preaching of John the Baptist is a warning of judgment, but it is also an invitation to life and an expectation of real change in the lives of those who respond."
