

Matthew Chapter 3 –

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Key Verses for Memorization: Matthew 2:1; Matthew 2:11

Background: Prior to when Matthew was chosen by Jesus to be one of His twelve Apostles, he was known as was a Jewish publican, or tax collector. As a tax collector, Matthew would have been a literate person who was well suited to author one of the four Gospel records. As a person who had a keen interest in accounting, one would expect to find his work very orderly and succinct.

Commentary:

Verse 2 – John the Baptist was in the wilderness of Judea preaching. His message was for the people to repent, for the kingdom of heaven was at hand.

Verse 4 – John’s clothing was made of camel’s hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. His diet was of locusts and wild honey. From this description we can deduct that John the Baptist was accustomed to a rugged life, and that he was prepared to face almost anything, including the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Verse 7 – 12 – Evidence of his bravery is seen by his confrontation with the religious leaders. His Gospel message to them clear and concise, however, it was not accepted by them.

Verse 13 – Jesus came to Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John.

Verse 14 – John tried to deter Jesus from being baptized, telling Him that it was he (John) who needed to be baptized; not Jesus.

Verse 15 – Jesus persuaded John to baptize him in order to fulfill all righteousness; then John consented to performing the baptism.

Verse 16 – 17 – The moment Jesus was raised from the water, the heavens opened, and a voice was heard that said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

A Quick Summary: Matthew Chapter 3 completely changes gears, for in this chapter we find the story of John the Baptist who was Jesus’ cousin. John was a deeply religious man, whose role was to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah and His message. John’s main message was one of repentance, and he spent much of his time baptizing people and teaching them about the coming King.

This chapter gives the account of Jesus’ visit with John on the banks of the Jordan River. It is here that Jesus asked John to perform His baptism, and after convincing him it was necessary to fulfill all righteousness, John baptized Jesus. As soon as Jesus was raised from the water, a dove descended and lit upon Him. A voice from heaven was heard saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Through the New Testament: a 5-Year Plan

Let's Memorize: Matthew 3:11

Day 1: I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Day 2: I indeed _____ you with _____ unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is _____ than I, whose _____ I am not worthy to bear: he shall _____ you with the Holy _____, and with _____:

Day 3: I _____ you with _____ unto _____. but he that _____ after _____ is _____ than I, whose _____ I am not _____ to _____: he shall _____ you _____ the _____, and with _____:

Day 4: _____ you _____ unto _____. but _____ that _____ after _____ is _____ than _____, whose _____ I _____ not _____ to _____: _____ shall _____ you _____ the _____, _____ with _____:

Day 5: _____ you _____ _____ but _____ is _____, _____ not _____ to _____: _____ the _____, _____ with _____:

Day 6: _____ but _____ is _____, _____ to _____: _____ the _____, _____:

Day 7: _____ _____, _____, _____: _____, _____:

Through the New Testament: a 5-Year Plan

Let's Memorize: Matthew 3:17

Day 1: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Day 2: And lo a _____ from heaven, saying, This is my _____ Son, in whom I am well _____.

Day 3: And lo a _____ from heaven, _____, This is my _____, in _____ I am well _____.

Day 4: And _____ a _____ from _____, _____, _____ is my _____, in _____ I am _____.

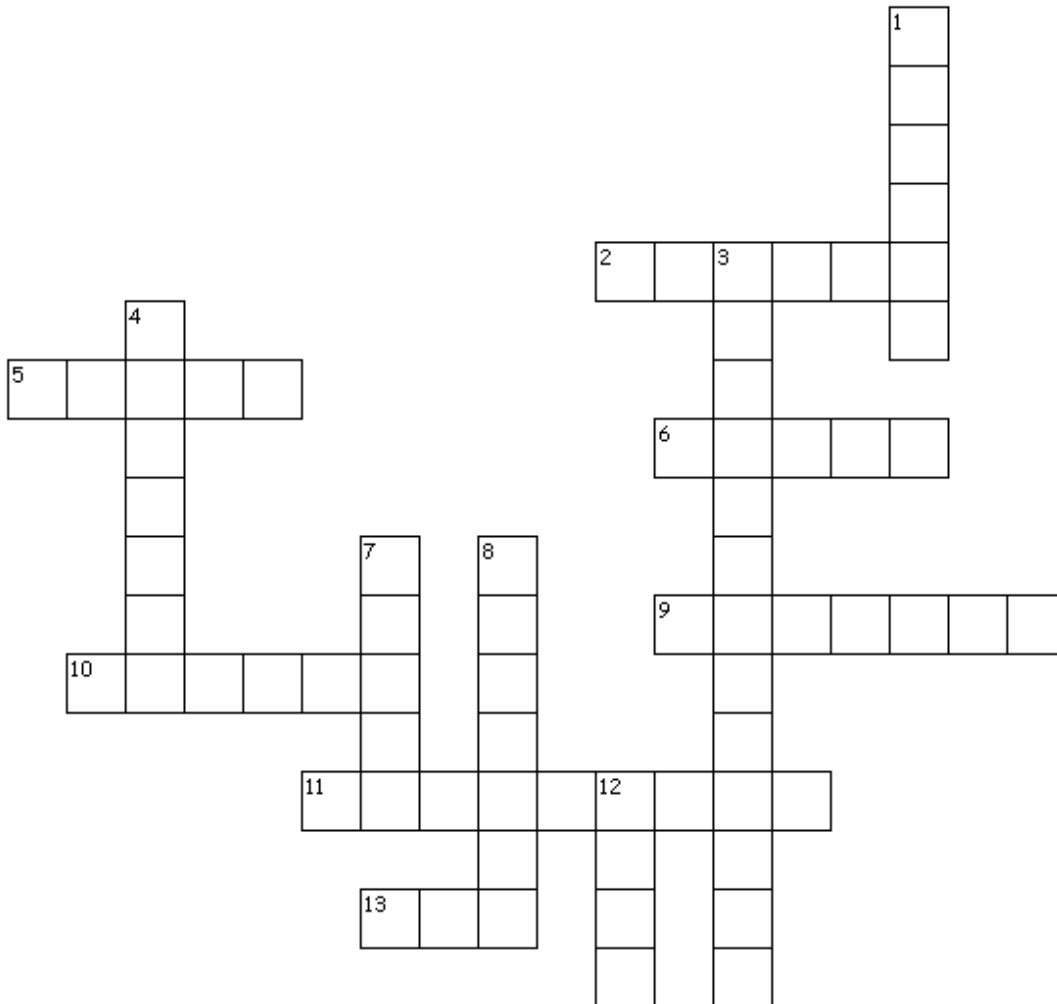
Day 5: _____ a _____, _____, _____ is _____, in _____ I am _____.

Day 6: _____, _____ is _____, _____ I _____.

Day 7: _____, _____, _____.

Through the New Testament: a 5-Year Plan

Crossword Puzzle: Matthew Chapter 3



Across

2. storehouse or granary

5. husks of grain

6. coverings for the feet

9. herbivorous insect

10. to turn away from

11. proclaim God's Word

13. tool used to chop wood

1. venomous snake

3. quality of being justifiable

4. to immerse in water

7. liquid that is the basis of many fluids

8. get ready for

12. to chop or cut down

Through the New Testament: a 5-Year Plan

Find the Hidden Words: Matthew Chapter 3

K C O E J V T Z G P N E V A E H O S M D C S F Q R C A R M X
U T H Y X E A Y L W C P D D P J C E F V A U D W U D F P T Y
D A C F N R G Q W D O A G Q H E V N A R E W W R V C Z H P O
M H B Q P F X I X I N T C S S N C O B X U U P V F G F C G X
L O F D E A Y G N O O D V B A E P T W X V I R N F I J C Z X
J N J X O A J J V V K B O L A M N S J Q L H T O Y D T P Q V
H E A K M W Z G C K H W F T J P J R R A R C H A F F E Y A V
N Y V Q I O N L Q Q O Y K R N U T T F E Q S P C R O J B H V
S X H E P Q O M P C V U P P Z U O I F D L M N I X B A K I A
P K C O U U L F Y D F U U E U M W F Z Z I D L S C F M D I H
D T C M E Z O T W W H L B P Q F U J N E U I T N J Z U Q N J
F U F G C R E V E G I A L C P S E T C C D Q Z X M K E A H Y
U G I O W O F V P A E E I F S M K Y X X K S S S L I E V R W
G I W P H U F V D W A N H D K T M J Z L N I P M U N N C O V
N G I E S J F B R S S W K X L F X H C K D D G E O G A B O D
C N R U W I L D E R N E S S M G Y T L G P Y P P I D W B C J
D Y N K P G U D I Z C Q R E A N D S T M G O W Q N O U E S O
E Y X R G R V P J W C Q I G O R V B N Z U T V L T M C E N F
Q A F Y W G V Z I M L L F C V S F C I Y P X N Y D F W B G X
W F P A R I L G B M L A K R L M U F W I B F R E X A X N Z X
X R T B H F S L Z W S Y K H Q Q Y U A D W D U P P H P M P K
D E N U A V A B K O M U D B D L M B D O Y S L N Y E G J E W
R D B F I B T E R L I J V H H F D X Z Y W G U I M I R Y U P
Z J R V T S X H B Z V N W U W D B W X L C G N P B E H S O O
W D H S O U G H T V W H N Z I P R Z O Q Q E C Y A T A E H W
B O Q I N H F I M R P O W U E C T J C O X O K X A X U B A U
W U C V Y B B E U L N J A P B V T L L Y X X W P M S W U X Y
Y L O J R L E Z X U B U I B V A F B H I I W P K J Z O W L V
I F S H I H O X I T S Y Z Z X V D D O X E L T J U T P N N N
S B J T Z Z U G N K Q M Z X R B E T H C Q U E L T J S D B N

Hidden Words:

axe
baptized
chaff
dove

fruit
heaven
honey
John

kingdom
pleased
repent
stones

suffer
water
wheat
wilderness

Through the New Testament: a 5-Year Plan

Test Your Understanding:

1. Who came “in those days” according to Matthew 3:1?
2. Where did John the Baptist preach according to Matthew 3:2?
3. John the Baptist said to _____
_____, _____ (vs 3)?
4. Who came to John the Baptist’s baptismal services? _____
and _____ (vs 7)
5. What does an acceptable tree have? _____ (vs 10)
6. What will the one (Jesus), who is mightier than John, baptize with?
_____ and _____ (vs 11)
7. Who baptized Jesus? _____ (vs 13)
8. Why was Jesus baptized, according to verse 15?
9. What opened up when Jesus was baptized? (vs 16)
10. In what form did the Holy Spirit descend? (vs 16)
11. Write out the words that were spoken from the Lord in heaven, as found in
verse 17.

Through the New Testament: a 5-Year Plan

Your Personal Notes Page: Matthew Chapter 3

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