

Title: The King and The Kingdom: Kingdom Life - Part 1

Date: January 6/7, 2017

Speaker: Phil Vaughan

Big Idea: This week we began a series reading through the book of Matthew. We saw that John the Baptist came to prepare people for Jesus' arrival by calling them to repent. It's never easy to be told to repent, but it's the starting point for what Jesus wants to do in our lives.

Passage: Matthew 3:1-2

Discuss It:

1. Each of us can identify something about our life that needs to change, but change is hard! Tell about a time you set your mind to make a change and were successful. What was difficult about it? How did you do it?
2. **Read Matthew 3:1-2.** John the Baptist had a simple message to prepare Israel for Jesus' arrival: repent. In his message this past weekend, Phil noted that "repent" means, "*To change your mind for the better. To reconsider your ways and change attitudes, thoughts, or behaviors.*" So repenting isn't just about stopping something bad in your life, it's also about replacing it with something good. If you're working to overcome something harmful in your life, what good thing would you aim to see in its place?
3. Some people humbly embraced John's and Jesus' call to repent. Others pridefully rejected it. How do you respond when someone points out something in your life that needs to change? Are you more naturally open or defensive? What factors influence how receptive you are?
4. **Read Matthew 3:8.** In his message, Phil said, "*Repentance isn't an event; it is a posture, a mindset, a lifestyle.*" Why do you think it was important for John the Baptist to say that repentance should produce fruit?
5. An old farming phrase goes, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." What does this phrase mean to you in the context of repentance? What do you hope to do today that will reap benefits years into the future?

Apply It:

- What is the one thing you need to take away from this study?
- What will help you remember it?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your thinking, actions, or relationships as a result?

90 Days With Jesus Reading Challenge:

During this series, we're challenging everyone to engage with Jesus throughout the week by following the daily reading guide, available in the Southeast App, online at southeastcc.org/readings, and printed weekly in the program. Is your group up to the challenge?