

Matthew chapter 3

Was John unwilling to accept the confession of the Pharisees and the scribes? [5-8]

What relationships exist between *confession*, *repentance*, and *baptism*?

Does (water) baptism produce repentance, or rather, does repentance lead to baptism? What cause(s) and/or effects are associated with the other form of baptism? [11]

Who saw the dove descend? Who heard the voice from heaven? (Why might it matter?)

Matthew chapter 9

How was faith demonstrated and rewarded in verse two? How is that different from the faith spoken of in verse 22?

This chapter comprises (at least) six separate stories (or narrative sections); how do they support Matthew's claim to his Jewish audience that Jesus of Nazareth is the expected Messiah? Which of these is most compelling to you? In each of them notice who is asking, who is giving, who is receiving; what was requested, and what was given.

What command does Jesus give in the last verse? What other commands did you notice in this chapter?

Matthew chapter 23 – An Angry Jesus?

Who is Jesus talking to? and who is He talking about? Summarize the overall message Jesus is conveying in this chapter.

Is Jesus angry here? His language is forceful and insulting; is it also encouraging? What is He trying to accomplish?

The final verses of this chapter express intense emotion – what's that all about?

Next week: Mark chapters 1, 8 and 14.