**THE KINGDOM**

**"Preparing for the King"**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

***Malachi 4:5-6: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."***

***Luke 1:16-17: "And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."***

***II Kings 1:8, "They answered, 'He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist.' And he said, 'It is Elijah the Tishbite'"***

Kingdom of heaven is the reign and rule of God.

How to prepare for this king:

1. **Repent of your sins (vs. 2)**

Repentance means to change your mind or attitude **which** produces change of conduct **which** produces a change of direction **which** produces a change of life for ever.

 A. Change your mind about:

 1. Sin

 2. Self

 3. Savior

 B. Change your conduct and direction (vs. 8)

 C. Change your perception (vs. 7-10)

**II**. **Open your heart to receive Jesus (vs. 11-12)**

 A. Because you want to

 1. He is the Mighty king

 2. He takes away the sin of the world

***John 1:29, "John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.'"***

 3. He is the giver of the Holy Spirit

***Ezekiel 36:26-27, "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."***

B. Because you need to...judgment is real (vs. 12)