

Notes for Matthew 3:4-7

Hebrew & Greek pronunciation spelled phonetically

Zechariah 13:4-5 - *On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies. He will not put on a hairy cloak in order to deceive, 5 but he will say, 'I am no prophet, I am a worker of the soil, for a man sold me in my youth*

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

Matthew 11:8 - *What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.*

Ephesians 5:8-9 - *for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true)*

"What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say" - American poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson

Matthew 11:18 - *For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'*

ἀκρίδες (ah-KREE-des) Greek for locusts and is the word Matthew used

κεράτια (keh-RAH-tee-ah) Greek for Carob pods as used in Luke 15:16

Luke 15:16 - *And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything*

Leviticus 11:22 - *Of them you may eat: the locust of any kind, the bald locust of any kind, the cricket of any kind, and the grasshopper of any kind.*

Luke 1:17 - *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."*

An occasional light diet or even a fast can remind us of what's important. If we frequently gorge ourselves on rich, heavy meals, it can mask our spiritual hunger the way "junk food" makes us feel full even if it is without the nourishment we need.

The Greek translated as "were going out" in Matthew 3:5 is in a form that means it happened again and again, it was ongoing similar to the repent was ongoing in Matthew 3:2

The Jordan River would remind Israelites of crossing into the Promised Land in Joshua chapters 3-4. Crossing one in Scripture often meant crossing from "what was" into "what is next."

Nehemiah 8:1-12 *people gather to hear God's Word and respond to it.*

Jonah 3 - *The entire city of Nineveh repents after hearing God's warning*

Acts 19:18-20 - *Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.*

Our real confessions are to God, not to our brothers and sisters, but it can be beneficial sometimes to confess to our fellow Believers if it does not cause them to stumble and it strengthens our relationship with them.

Mark 6:4 - *And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household."*

Mark 6:5 - *And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.*

God wants a new heart that produces real change and bears fruit. Religious masks can hide a poisonous life. Repentance must be visible, or we're just well-camouflaged snakes.

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ISAIAH 40:3-5

A VOICE CRIES:
“IN THE WILDERNESS PREPARE THE
WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE
STRAIGHT IN THE DESERT A
HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD.⁴
EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE LIFTED
UP, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND
HILL BE MADE LOW; THE UNEVEN
GROUND SHALL BECOME LEVEL,
AND THE ROUGH PLACES A PLAIN.
5 AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD
SHALL BE REVEALED, AND ALL
FLESH SHALL SEE IT TOGETHER,
FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS
SPOKEN.”

[illegible]