

Notes for Matthew 3:8-10

Hebrew & Greek pronunciation spelled phonetically

Repentance is more than feelings. It's a real turn in our heart that leads to real change in our life - how we act, what we do, what we wear, even our thoughts.

Galatians 5:19-23 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Matthew 7:16-20 - You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Matthew 12:33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.

Acts 26:20 - but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

Luke 19:8 - And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

James 2:14-26 - "Faith without works is dead".

True faith acts. Not just prayer hand emojis, but actually praying, for example.

Isaiah 51:1 & 2 - Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. 2 Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

Genesis 15:6 - And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

John 8:39-44 - They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. 41 You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Romans 9:6-8 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

Ezekiel 36:26 - 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.

Genesis 2:7 - then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Luke 19:40 - He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

In Hebrew, the word "Stones" = 'ăḇānīm (uh-vah-NEEM) And the word "Sons or children" = bānīm (bah-NEEM) The two words differ by only one letter called an aleph (א)

In Hebrew Gematria, each letter is also a number. The total of the letters gives each word a value. The word (bānīm or "sons") = 102 and ('ăḇānīm or "stones") = 103 They differ by 1, which is the value of the aleph, the funny looking little a in the word for stones. An Aleph was often used symbolically for the One God. In other words, the only difference between a stone and a son is the one true God.

The Old Testament often pictures God's people as a vine or tree meant to bear fruit like in Psalm 80 or Isaiah 5. When fruit is bad or absent, judgment comes.

Mark 9:24 - Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

Mark 11:12-14 - On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. 13 And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

Luke 12:48 ...Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required...

Luke 13:6-9 - And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' 8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

In Psalm 1 the righteous person is like a tree planted by streams, bearing fruit in season; the wicked are like chaff the wind blows away.

In Isaiah 5:1-7, God carefully plants a vineyard (Israel) but gets wild grapes. The Hebrew word for "wild" also translates as "stinking" or "sour" highlighting that the fruit was unusable and a bitter disappointment.

Notes for Matthew 3:8-10

There are many ways to pray depending upon our situation. Many times, we can pray boldly. Other times it may be best to pray silently and invisibly. But we should not pray as one ashamed of who we are - Children of God.

JEREMIAH 7:3-10

THUS SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS, THE GOD OF ISRAEL: AMEND YOUR WAYS AND YOUR DEEDS, AND I WILL LET YOU DWELL IN THIS PLACE. 4 DO NOT TRUST IN THESE DECEPTIVE WORDS: ‘THIS IS THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD, THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD, THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD.’

5 “FOR IF YOU TRULY AMEND YOUR WAYS AND YOUR DEEDS, IF YOU TRULY EXECUTE JUSTICE ONE WITH ANOTHER, 6 IF YOU DO NOT OPPRESS THE SOJOURNER, THE FATHERLESS, OR THE WIDOW, OR SHED INNOCENT BLOOD IN THIS PLACE, AND IF YOU DO NOT GO AFTER OTHER GODS TO YOUR OWN HARM, 7 THEN I WILL LET YOU DWELL IN THIS PLACE, IN THE LAND THAT I GAVE OF OLD TO YOUR FATHERS FOREVER.

8 “BEHOLD, YOU TRUST IN DECEPTIVE WORDS TO NO AVAIL. 9 WILL YOU STEAL, MURDER, COMMIT ADULTERY, SWEAR FALSELY, MAKE OFFERINGS TO BAAL, AND GO AFTER OTHER GODS THAT YOU HAVE NOT KNOWN, 10 AND THEN COME AND STAND BEFORE ME IN THIS HOUSE, WHICH IS CALLED BY MY NAME, AND SAY, ‘WE ARE DELIVERED!’—ONLY TO GO ON DOING ALL THESE ABOMINATIONS?

[illegible]