

**DATE:** Saturday-Sunday, August 8-9, 2020

**SERIES:** *RENEW*

**SERMON:** The Renewed Church

***Matthew 3:1-3***

[1] In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea

[2] and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

[3] This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

***Matthew 4:12-17***

[12] When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>

[13] Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali -

[14] to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

[15] “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles -

[16] the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

[17] From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

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*Matthew 3:1-3 4:12-17*

*The renewed church will be a gospel church, the church of Jesus the Christ.*

*What did Jesus do?*

**1. Jesus worshiped.**

- *John 4:23* Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.
- *Matthew 22:37* Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

**2. Jesus interceded.**

- *Luke 22:31-32* “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”
- Jesus did nothing without prayer.

**3. Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom.**

**4. Jesus made disciples of those He reached.**

- *Ephesians 4:15* Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.
- *Philippians 2:12* Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

**5. Jesus served the human need around Him in the name of the Father.**

- *Matthew 25:40* “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’
- Spiritual need is infinitely greater than physical need.

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**2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.**

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- Jesus did nothing without \_\_\_\_\_.

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**5. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the human need around Him in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

- **Matthew 25:40** *"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*
- \_\_\_\_\_ need is infinitely greater than \_\_\_\_\_ need.

# Lagniappe

## *I am concerned, and I am encouraged*

As I have said before, I am concerned about the church and about the churches. The apostle Paul wrote about a similar concern. In addition to his many physical difficulties and persecution, Paul spoke about his concern for the churches: **2 Corinthians 11:28** “*And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches.*”

My concern has to do with how First Baptist Church, Covington, and the many churches around us come out of this pandemic. I fear that many people will suffer great difficulty from the isolation they have experienced.

I also fear that people will have forgotten how meaningful and significant worshiping with other believers really is. I am concerned that they will have left off prayer, Bible study, and the daily disciplines of living for God.

But, I am also encouraged.

I am encouraged by the many people who are ministering in the name of Jesus. They are caring for their neighbors, making phone calls, and sending texts. They are sharing their material goods with struggling people.

I am also encouraged by their spiritual disciplines of reading and studying Scripture and interceding on behalf of other people.

We have a number of people who have volunteered to serve during this time. This is truly encouraging.

Times of great difficulty can either destroy us - or make us much stronger. May we all choose to let God use this time to bring us closer to Him and to share the good news of our God.

## WAYLON