

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

I would like you, please, to turn in your Bible to **Matthew, chapter 3** and **verse 1**. **In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea.** Wow! What a place to live! When you think of all the other places you could live, why the wilderness? Well, John the Baptist was not raised in a wilderness, but who knows all the intricate parts of his personal story? We know he had aged parents and he knew the agony of them one day going Home to the Lord. He was without brother or sister and he was not understood, but he had been raised as a child with every Scripture to show that yes, that was his name in the Book for he was to be the forerunner of our Lord. He had been called to give a special message and this was the message:

**2 And saying Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

John the Baptist had a message that was particular for his day. He was the end of the old covenant, clasping the new covenant that was coming into being, as Christ Jesus was already born and was ministering. He was a cousin, according to the flesh of the family, but we know that Christ Jesus was different from John the Baptist. Christ Jesus is the Son of God, spotless, pure and holy, born of a virgin, as Scriptures over and over again emphasize.

***The kingdom of heaven*** is very peculiar to **Matthew** and signifies the Messianic earth rule of Jesus Christ, the Son of David. ***The kingdom of heaven*** refers to the rule of

Heaven over the earth. **Daniel**, which is a very special Book which I love dearly, speaks of the kingdom which the God of Heaven will set up after the destruction of **the stone cut out . . . without hands** of the Gentile world system. (**Daniel 2:45**). It is a kingdom covenanted to David's seed, described in the prophets and confirmed to Jesus the Christ, the Son of Mary through the angel Gabriel . (**Luke 1:31,33**). All this was coming together as John preached, saying . . . *the kingdom of heaven is at hand*. (**Matthew 3:2**).

Well, what happened? Did it come into being? If you were listening yesterday, you know we read : **He came unto his own, and his own received him not. (John 1:10)**. And so, although he came to share forth what he believed would immediately happen, there was, in the timing of God, yet this period when there would be an opportunity for the Gentile world to receive the Lord when the Church of Jesus Christ would be gathered in. And in that timing, Jews who loved and knew God, waited and wondered: “ What happened? Where did we fail?” Because they rejected the Lord, that time was laid aside, but their time is coming soon. But, unfortunately, it is like the old message of John. There is the old message of the covenant, which speaks of difficulty and our hearts break within us, for we realize the difficult day yet to fall upon His people, the Jews. At the same time, we believe there will be those people who will come forth, who will believe and proclaim the Lord, and in fact, at one part of these evil days coming on us, they will be the very heralders of the news of salvation around the world.

So, let us honor the fact that we have today to listen and accept the message. Accept it to our own heart, for it says, **Repent ye. (Matthew 3:2)**. I do not know if we

understand what that means. It literally means that there is a willingness to turn around and to see within our lives and being that which we cannot create and be what we think should be the life pleasing to God, but we turn and accept what He says is necessary: we are willing to not only turn from our ways, but *repent* of them; put right those things which must be put right. That might mean a phone call to somebody; that might mean a letter. Are you praying for the ones that you find you have difficulty to get along with? Do you understand that you are being a stooge for Satan to hurt and to feel and to be jealous of other people? Why don't you this day, say to the Lord, *I want to repent. I want to see that the work of God is done by God alone. He picks up and chooses those who He will to work through, but at the same time, I do not want any of those things that would bind me and hold my life - jealousies, reactions and feelings. I want to be clean in the hands of the Lord. I want to say, Yes, Lord, I do repent and I receive You in all your cleansing, by the power of Your precious Blood.*

*In Jesus' Name. Amen.*