

Read Matthew 3

Malachi 4:5; 2 Kings 1:8; Matthew 11:7-11

John the Baptist's location was distinctive.

Why did John locate his ministry in the wilderness? Why not go where the people live?

His message was distinctive.

How does this ministry of John prepare "the way of the Lord?"

Repentance involves what three ingredients?

- Conviction – explain what that means to you
- Contrition – explain what that means to you
- Change – explain what that means to you

What is meant by the term, "Kingdom of Heaven"?

His appearance was distinctive.

Why do you think John preached the way he did? Dressed the way he did?

Why do you think John spoke so disrespectfully to the "reverend doctors of the Law"?

His diet was distinctive. **Luke 1:15**

Why would he have such a diet of honey and locust?

His courage was distinctive.

The Pharisees were the conservative party. The Sadducees were the liberal party. What did John call these religious dignitaries? And what would he have meant by that?

What is the difference between remorse and repentance? Name two contrasting figures in the New Testament to support your answer.

John's humility was distinctive.

John 3:30 *"He must become greater; I must become less"*

Why did John hesitate to baptize Jesus?

Do you think John expected the people to show the genuineness of their repentance before he would baptize them, or did he expect such fruits of repentance to be seen in their lives after baptism as the natural result of their repentance?

What does "Fulfill all righteousness" mean"? Why was it important and right for Jesus to be baptized? Is there any evidence that would indicate whether any others than John and Jesus heard and saw the accompanying signs from heaven?

Finish this sentence: To prepare the way of the Lord we need to be