



Evangelism In Matthew #7

Mt 4.17: The directive/"Repent" • The reason/"The kingdom ...is at hand"

- **Our purpose:**
 - Understand what the gospel **IS**
 - Understand what the gospel **DOES**
- **Mt 1.1-4.11**
 - Prepares us for the **ministry** of Jesus
 - The birth narrative: **1.1-25**
 - Jesus' genealogy: **1.1-17**
 - Jesus' birth: **1.18-25**



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- Prepares us for the **ministry** of Jesus

- Magi in Jerusalem/Bethlehem: **2.1-12**

- To Egypt **2.13-15** • Death in Bethlehem **2.16-18** • To Nazareth: **2.19-23**

- John's ministry: **3.1-13** • Jesus' baptism **3.14-17**

- Jesus' temptation: **4.1-11**

- The ministry in **Galilee**: 4.12-18.35

- Prophecy: "Galilee of the **Gentiles**" • **Mt 4.15**



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- **Mt 4.17** - "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**
 - Jesus, like John, told his audience **what** to do, **repent 3.2**
 - Jesus, like John, explained **why** they were to do so • the **kingdom was near 3.2**
 - Their identical messages brought about their deaths • **14.2, 17.12-13**
 - It was **not** preaching "the kingdom is at hand" that lead to their deaths ...
 - It was the **directive to repent** •
 - It was a directive to change in **multiple** and **specific God-directed ways**



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- The **singular** message of John and Jesus emphasized ...
 - Repentance • “an **ethical** imperative” and ...
 - The kingdom of heaven • “an **eschatological** reality”/certainty
 - Repentance was commanded, and expected, **in view of** the coming kingdom
 - Without individual/community/national repentance, the kingdom would **still come**, but those who **refused/rejected** the directive to repent would **not** be in it
- Matthew repeats this message, first introduced by John, then repeated by Jesus:
3.2, 4.17, 23, 9.35, 10.7, 13.19, 16.19, 21.43, 24.14



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- Repentance, has often been assumed to be ...
 - **Emotional** (ie., **sorrow** for sin)
 - **Intellectual** (ie., **changing** our mind)
 - **Temporal** (ie., referring to **conversion at first**)
 - **Volitional** (ie., **changing our will**, doing penance/work as **proof** of repentance)
- Repentance involves **all** of these **and more** ...
 - It entails a **total** change of character, the turning of the **whole person** away from sin and toward God. It **requires** that we be obedient/submissive/serving to **all** that God's **kingdom message** teaches.



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- Repentance, is a **complete** change of character reflected in what/why/how we ...
 - Think • It's **rational** • It fully engages our mind.
 - Feel • It's **emotional** • It fully engages our feelings.
 - Decide • It's **volitional** • It fully engages our will.
 - Value • It's **moral** • It fully engages our sense of right and wrong.
 - Act • It's **behavioral** • It fully engages our total being.
- Repentance, to be what God wants it to be must be both ...
 - **Initial** and
 - **Continual** • 3.8, 11, 4.17, 9.13, 11.20-21, 12.41



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- Repentance required the turning of everything that we are — our whole being — **away from sin and to God**. It is a total obedient response to the kingdom message.
 - We recognize a need that only God can supply
 - Because of that we turn from sin to God
 - And we serve God in/with the **totality** of our lives
- Jesus' and John's message of repentance required a rejection of the old way of living and the embracing of a new way. It was **initial, continual** and **fully** transforming.

