Northwest Bible Church – June 22, 2023 – Matthew – Alan Conner

**Matthew 3:1-2**

*John the Baptist*

Intro

**A. THE MAN (Matthew 3:1, 4).**

 1. Family. Lk. 1:5

 2. Supernatural birth. Luke 1:7

 3. Lifestyle (Matthew 3:4).

 a. Clothes – camel’s hair and leather belt.

 b. Food - locusts and wild honey.

**B. THE MINISTRY (Matthew 3:1).**

 1. Preacher in the wilderness (Matthew 3:1) –

 2. The Baptist (Matthew 3:1) -

 a. Baptism means “to dip or plunge”.

b. Baptism by immersion was not novel for the Jews**.**

 c. John’s baptism was novel:

(1) John administered baptism to others.

 (2) John’s call for a JEWS to undergo baptism.

**C. THE MESSAGE (Matthew 3:2).**

 1. REPENT.

 a. “to change one’s mind, attitude” or “to be sorry for something.”

 b. “radical transformation of the entire person, Matt. 3:8

 c. Repentance was necessary for baptism. Matt. 3:6

 d. Repentance brings about salvation.

 e. “Repent” - Present tense imperative so on-going.

 2. REASON. “For the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

 a. Comparison with “kingdom of God.”

 b. Rule/reign not a realm.

 c. “at hand”.

 d. Kingdom with two aspects. PRESENT/FUTURE;

 (1) Spiritual NOW. Matthew 12:28; Rom. 14:17; Col. 1:13

 (2) Physical consummation in the FUTURE. Judgment

Conclusion/Application