

# Plowing Fields

# **Matthew 3:1-12**

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**In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

**This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:**

**"A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.**

**People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.**

**Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.**

**But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"**

**Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.**

**And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.**

**The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.**

**"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**

**His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."**