**Sermon Notes Sunday 5th December**

**‘John the Baptist – the man and his message’**

Can you recall the occasion when you have had to make a 3 point turn in your car? Was it when you were learning to drive, taking your test or subsequently? Did people have to wait for you? How did it make you feel?

Ready Matthew 3:1-12 and the account of John the Baptist

* What do we know from scripture about John the Baptist; his character, his impact on those who heard him and the price he paid for being so outspoken?
* If his message was ‘Three steps to heaven’, what was the first step? (Matthew 3:6, James 5:16)
* How easy do we find being honest with ourselves and owning up when we have made a mistake? What stops us from confessing our sins?
* What was step two? (Mt 3:2) What does it mean to repent?
* What did John mean by, ‘Produce fruit in keeping with repentance?’ v8

Look up these scriptures that talk about repentance: Jeremiah 31:19,Isaiah 30:15, Mark 1:15, Luke 5:32, Acts 3:19, 2 Corinthians 7:10.

* If the whole witness of scripture points to salvation being conditional upon repentance, what does that suggest if people do not repent?
* What was step 3? (John 1:32-34) John’s whole mission was to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah and point people to Jesus as the one in whom they should place their trust and confidence (John 14:1-6)
* How can you apply these ‘Three steps to heaven’ or ‘Three point turn’ as a regular daily discipline in your walk with Jesus day by day?

**During this Advent why don’t you pray for one another, that we might live lives of purity and holiness as we wait for his return in power and with great glory.**

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