

Matthew 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Analysis

John demands 'fruits worthy of repentance,' emphasizing that genuine conversion produces moral transformation. The Greek 'axios' (worthy/consistent with) indicates that fruit must correspond to the root. This anticipates Jesus' teaching that trees are known by their fruit (Matthew 7:16-20). True repentance is not merely emotional or verbal but produces obedient action flowing from a changed heart.

Historical Context

The demand for fruit echoed the prophets' consistent message that external ritual without internal heart change and ethical transformation is worthless (Isaiah 1:11-17, Micah 6:6-8). John called for Reformation—return to biblical religion versus mere tradition.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What specific 'fruits of repentance' should be evident in a believer's life?
2. How can you distinguish between genuine repentance that produces fruit and false repentance that remains merely emotional or intellectual?

Interlinear Text

ποιήσατε	οὖν	καρποὺς	ἀξιούς	τῆς	μετανοίας
Bring forth	therefore	fruits	meet	G3588	for repentance
G4160	G3767	G2590	G514		G3341

Additional Cross-References

Luke 3:8 (Repentance): Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Acts 26:20 (Repentance): But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Ephesians 5:9 (Parallel theme): (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

Philippians 1:11 (Parallel theme): Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Jeremiah 36:3 (Parallel theme): It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

Jeremiah 26:13 (Repentance): Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you.

Matthew 21:32 (Repentance): For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed

him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

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