

Matthew 3:8 (NLT2)

Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.

Does the way we live prove that we have repented of our sins and given our lives to Jesus? You can tell people all day that you are a heart surgeon or a race car driver, but not until you perform a successful heart surgery, or race in something like the Indy 500, will people know that you are really a heart surgeon or race car driver.

I think I have told you this before, but I used to be a trainer at a company I worked for, and when I trained people, I would add little funny sayings in my training so they wouldn't get bored and to keep their attention. Well, one day someone said that they heard that I was a professional comedian and that someone said they saw me perform in a comedy club downtown. Well, this was not true, but part of what I did during my training, made people think that I was actually a comedian, which I have never been... professionally lol.

In today's devotional verse, this was John the Baptist saying this and let's look back a few verses to get it all in context.

† **Matthew 3:5-6 (NLT2)** *People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.*

So people were going out to see this guy (John) that everyone was probably talking about, and as they did, they not only saw him, but they heard him preach as well, and the result of the preaching was that "***they confessed their sins***" and after they did "***he baptized them in the Jordan River.***"

But then reading on, we read of how the religious leaders (***Pharisees and Sadducees***) were coming because they wanted to see what John was doing.

† **Matthew 3:7 (NLT2)** *But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee God's coming wrath?"*

Now he was saying this to the ***Pharisees and Sadducees*** which were men who people feared as godly men. Yet John knew that even though they had the title; they were not godly men according to God's requirement for them to be godly men. Because as we read in the gospels, we discover that they didn't care about the people that they were supposed to be shepherding, they only cared about their status in the religious sects.

So John then addresses this with them with today's verse "***Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.***" You see, they heard the message, but did they really want to be baptized because they repented of their sins, or were they really wanting to be seen by men as a part of the new thing that God was doing through John?

So for us, we need to ask ourselves (including me) Can we "***Prove by the way we live that we have repented of our sins and turned to God?***" or has it turned into a show around other Christians, or sometimes non-Christians? Or maybe we are not fully showing that we are Christians by the way we live. Like I said earlier that I used to add little funny stories to my training, so people knew I was the trainer, but they thought I was something more, because I added to what I was doing.

That should cause us to stop and ask ourselves, What things are we adding to our Christianity that people will say, "Yeah I think that he or she is a Christian, but I'm not sure if they are because they also seem to be a _____?"

Are we trying to be a grape vine, trying to provide fruit to others from a thorn bush?

† **Luke 6:43-45** *For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*