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The Ministry of John the Baptist

Ministry of Repentance

- “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Matt. 3:2)
- “John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.” (Mk. 1:4)
- The process of true repentance is threefold:
 - Repentance, confession, and change



His ministry pointed towards the Lord Jesus

- “Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, Behold the Lamb of God.” (John 1:35-36)
- “...you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”
(1 Peter 1:18-19)



His ministry revealed the relationship between the Bridegroom and His friend

- “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.” (John 3:29)
- “Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.” (Matt. 9:15)
- “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.” (Rev. 21:9)



What does the Bridegroom do for the Bride?¹

- Ezekiel 16:6-14
- “6 And when I passed by you and saw you **struggling in your own blood**...8 When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so **I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness**. Yes, I swore an oath to you and **entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine**, says the Lord God.
- “9 Then I **washed you in water**; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I **anointed you with oil**.”

What does the Bridegroom do for the Bride?²

- Ezekiel 16:6-14
- “10 I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk.”
- “13 Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. **You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty.**”
- “14 Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for **it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you,** says the Lord God.”

Summary

- John the Baptist's Ministry:
 - Showing us the way of Repentance
 - Pointing us towards the Lamb of God
 - Revealing the relationship between the Bridegroom and His friend