

**The Gospel of Matthew #14**

**MATTHEW 3: JOHN PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS:**

**Two: THE LONGING TO BE PURE**

**Matthew 3:4-12**

John is very visual. Looks a prophet. Pictures his message with water and figurative fire

I. Baptism and OT \_\_\_\_\_

Levit 11-15: several egs of water purification

Egs: something touched by dead animals (11:32);  
infectious diseases (13:34); mildew (13:58); discharge (15:13)

Numbers 19: sprinkling of waters for ceremonial cleansing

(Note: why we baptize by sprinkling: cf Heb 9:10  
("washings": lit "baptisms"))

II. Baptism and \_\_\_\_\_ cleansing

Isa 1:15-17 wash bloody hands to make clean = stop doing wrong →  
be whiter than snow (18)

Psalms 51:2 wash my iniquity

7 cleanse (lit "un-sin") me (cf. Exod 12:22)

Jer 4:14 wash the evil from your heart

Zech 13:1 a fountain to cleanse from sin

So the people come, \_\_\_\_\_ their sins (v6) and need  
to be cleansed

### III. Baptism and the \_\_\_\_\_

Isa 44:3-4 (cf 32:15-20) pour water ~ pour out My Spirit

Ezek 36:24-29a sprinkle clean water ~ put new spirit / My Spirit in you

- a) Cleanse from your impurities and idols (v25)
- b) Give you a new heart and new Spirit (v26)

Joel 2:28-32 pour out My Spirit in the new age

So John announces the Coming One Who will baptize with the Spirit (cleansing, new nature) (v11)

Only alternative: baptism of unquenchable \_\_\_\_\_ (v11)  
His baptism is in the Jordan (v6), the entrance to the Promised Land.  
Only way into the Land (Kingdom: v1): Jesus' baptism.

#### So What

Have you felt the need for cleansing of your life? Come to Jesus.  
Confess your sins to Him and whoever else you offended

Do you feel His cleansing that is sufficient for you?  
**Hebrews 10:19-22** conscience and body

Your only alternative; He will purge your sin in fire—everlasting!

Come to Jesus now for cleansing. His sacrifice once for all is sufficient