

Camp Copass Boys Camp 2008 - Bible Study #2

Theme: Wild to Believe

John the Baptist "Wild Man of the Wilderness"

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."
John 3:16

Bible Study Text: Matthew 3, John 1:6-42, Mark 6:14-29

Object: Boys will learn the plan of salvation and have an opportunity to accept Christ.

The third chapter of Matthew tells the story of John the Baptist. John preached in the desert country of Judea. His message was simple, "Change your life. God's kingdom is here." A desert dweller, John dressed in a camel-hair habit tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild field honey. John proclaimed the coming of Jesus. John told the people that Jesus was the true Son of God and only He could bring the kingdom of life alive inside them and give them the Holy Spirit to change them from the inside out. People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear and see him in action. And at the Jordan River, those who came to believe in Jesus were baptized into a changed life.

When John realized that a lot of Pharisees and Sadducees were showing up for a baptismal experience because they thought it was popular, he exploded: "Brood of snakes! What do you think you're doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snake skins is going to make any difference? It's your life that must change, not your skin."

One day Jesus came to the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize Him. John didn't want to do it. He thought Jesus, as God's Son, should baptize him. But Jesus insisted. "Do it. God's work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism." So John did it. The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and John saw God's Spirit - it looked like a dove - coming down and landing on Jesus. And along with the Spirit, a voice said, "This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life."

Later in Matthew 14, John was beheaded because he would not change his beliefs. John was wild about his belief in Jesus and he was wild to share that belief with others. John let Jesus take away his sin and change him from the inside out. Have you gone wild for Jesus?

Wild Quiz:

What was John the Baptist's message?

Why do you think John the Baptist lived in the wilderness?

Why were so many people coming to hear what John had to say?

According to John was getting baptized or changing your life more important?

What does getting baptized do for you?

Would you be willing to live and die like John the Baptist did so you can follow Jesus? Why or why not?

Do you feel God is calling you to do something special for Him?