

Chapter 3

The children come forward:

Dear children, imagine your father or mother comes from another country than the Netherlands (is this the case with you?) Imagine your father still has a house in that country. And he has asked some people there to take care of it. To keep it clean and well. And he has agreed with them: when I will come back, I give you a call, then please make sure everything is right. Children, what if your father comes back and the house is a complete mess? He might call the police!

We heard the story about John the Baptist. John the Baptist was the last and the greatest prophet of Israel, a prophet like Elijah. And when John preaches, it is as if God gives a call to the people: my Son, the great King, will soon come to his property; this is my call – is everything right?

The message of John is good news and bad news. Of course, it is good news when the great King of Israel will soon come to His people. But the point is: are they ready for it? John tells the people: you must repent and be baptised.

Now on Johns message we see two reactions:

Some react honest and humble. Others, the religious leaders, react high heartedly.

Honest and humble:

Honest: they tell God everything, confess their sins.

Humble: they are baptised into the river Jordan. They ask for a new start with God.

Others react high heartedly:

We are the people of God, we keep his commandments, nothing to worry for us. John the Baptist warns them: they are blind for who they are and what their situation is.

Then Jesus comes and wants to be baptised. Why? Has He made a mess of His life?

No, He is indeed the promised Son of God, the one Whom God is with.

But He has not come now to be the police!

The purpose of his first coming is to make us ready for his second coming.

Jesus has come into this world: to redeem us from sin and to renew us.

And we expect Him one day to come: to restore the universe and to remove evil and all evildoers.

So, to summarise everything until now, Matthew asks us:

Look at Jesus: He is the promised Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham, the new Moses, look at Jesus, He is the son of God, the Saviour.

Children, you may now go to your program, have a good time there!