God Is Calling KZ Lesson Sun Am 7/11/2021

# Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

**11**For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Target Thought: God created us for His special purpose.

Matthew 3 (NKJV)

**3**In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, **2**and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” **3**For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ”

**4**Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5**Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him **6**and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

**7**But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8**Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, **9**and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as *our* father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. **10**And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **11**I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit [[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt+3%3A1-17&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23204a)]and fire. **12**His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

**13**Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. **14**And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

**15**But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

**16**When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. **17**And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Many years ago, a man named John the Baptist preached about what it means to be ready to serve in the Kingdom of God. 1. John the Baptist followed God’s plan for him and he helped to prepare the way for the people to come to know Jesus. God has especially created us for His plan, a good and special plan.

Part of God’s plan for us is to 2. live like Jesus and to tell others about Him so that they can have God’s plan in their life too.

John the Baptist was a different kind of man. He wore clothes made of camel's hair with a belt around his waist. His diet was rather unusual as well. He ate a diet of locusts and wild honey. Do you know what a locust is? Many of us today might call it a grasshopper. I'm not sure I would want to eat grasshoppers and honey. How about you?

John the Baptist traveled throughout the wilderness of Judea. His message to the people was to get ready for Jesus. John would shout loudly, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Father God’s special plan for John was to prepare people to accept Jesus as their Savior. Many people were ready for Jesus. So they came to John the Baptist. They confessed their sins to God and were baptized by John in the Jordan River. After John baptized the people, he told them, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But there is one coming who is more powerful than I. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and power.

John was willing and obedient to God’s call on his life, It was the most important thing to John to follow God’s special purpose for him. 3. Father God has a special purpose for all of us. Each plan is special and specific and He has already prepared us to follow it, we just have to be willing and obedient to follow it just like John was.

1. Did John the Baptist follow God’s plan for his life?
2. What is part of Jesus’ plan for us?
3. Does God have a special for all of us?