

## "Generation of Vipers"

Matt. 3:7-10

### Introduction:

- A. Strong words by John the Baptist
- B. Fitting words for Pharisees and Sadducees.
  - 1. Deceitful and hypocritical. (cf. Mt. 12:34; 23:33)
  - 2. Probably wanted kingdom without repentance.
  - 3. Had a three-fold need:

### Discussion:

- I. They Needed To Flee Wrath To Come. (v. 7).
  - A. Real wrath. (Matt. 23:33; Luke 16:28; Rom. 2:5,6,8).
  - B. Severe wrath (Mk. 9:43-48; Rev. 14:10,11)
    - 1. In its nature
    - 2. In its duration.
  - C. Escapable wrath. ("Flee"; Rom. 2:5ff)
  - D. Motivation for obedience. (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10,11)
- II. They Needed To Forsake False Security. (v. 9).
  - A. Jews put trust in wrong things.
    - 1. Pedigree. (v. 9, Gal 3:29)
    - 2. Riches. (cf. Matt. 19:23-25).
  - B. We often put trust in wrong things.
    - 1. Wealth. (1 Tim. 6:17).
    - 2. Political systems. (Matt. 26:52; Rev. 6:14-17)
    - 3. Traditional Religion. (Matt. 15:3).
    - 4. Human creeds. (Matt. 15:9).
    - 5. "Church" position rather than Lord's position.
- III. They Need To Bear Good Fruit. (vv. 8,10).
  - A. Some have no "leaves" or "fruit". (Ps. 14:1).
  - B. Some have "leaves only" (cf. Matt. 21:19).
    - 1. Pretense without action. (Rev. 3:1)
    - 2. Neglect obedience. (Acts 24:25; Heb. 2:3; 10:25).
  - C. Some have "evil fruit". (cf. Is. 5:4).
    - 1. Oppose truth. (3 Jno. 9).
    - 2. Promote "lawlessness" (Matt. 7:23).
    - 3. Immorality. (1 Cor. 5:1; Gal. 5:19-21).
  - D. Some have "good fruit" - Actively serve. (Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 15:58)
    - 1. Obey first principles
    - 2. Worship regularly
    - 3. Work daily.

### Conclusion:

- 1. "The axe is laid...."
- 2. Flee wrath and bear fruit.