

**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**Changing the Price Tags**  
**Matthew 3**

Let's talk about snowglobes, price tags, John the Baptist and the Christ.

Today we need a good \_\_\_\_\_!

**First with...**

- The \_\_\_\_\_

**Second with...**

- The \_\_\_\_\_

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**Message Application:**

At the 2004 Democratic Convention Barack Obama gave a speech right before the Democrats' nominee for President, John Kerry, would deliver his acceptance speech. Politics put aside it Obama delivered a dynamic speech. He had the crowd fired up. Then Kerry came out and delivered his speech and the fire, well I wouldn't say it went out but it did die down. Simply put Barack Obama was and still is a dynamic speaker. Kerry was not in comparison. Obama may not have intended to up-stage Kerry, but that's what happened.

At first glance it may seem that John the Baptist did the same to Jesus. John bursted on the scene with a prophet's flare. John said it was time for a shake up. John said things like, God's ax is ready to chop down Israel (Matthew 3: 10). He calls the religious leaders poisonous snakes (Matthew 3: 7). His message was a wrath filled warning to shake Israel out of her slumber.

Then the second speaker stepped up and didn't perform judgment quite like John had described. Jesus said, *"17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."* John 3:17

The differences were noted by John's followers and by John himself (see Matthew 11). Jesus' enemies also noted the difference between John and Jesus (see Matthew 11 once more).

As different as the two men were, they both brought the same message. John said, *2 "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."* Matthew 3:2

Jesus said, *"Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."* Matthew 4: 17

Sometimes before a builder can build he has to blast away the old structure. John was God's dynamite to shatter the old dead nation and prepare it for Jesus' kingdom.

My friend, what does God need to blast out of your life today? What is keeping Jesus from growing you to be more like him? Today the church as a whole needs a shaking. Today Our world needs a shaking. Today you and I need to yield to Jesus and allow him to give his light to every part of our living.

Meditate and act today. Pray for the Holy Spirit's power to bring a change in those areas you've been holding back in.

Grace & peace,

Wm. Lyons