

When John saw the proud Pharisees coming to hear him, he was angry, because he knew they were not sorry for their sins. He said to them fiercely, "Your hearts are like poisonous vipers. God will surely punish you, unless you turn from your sins."

When the soldiers heard John preaching like this even they were frightened. "What shall we do?" they cried. "Stop quarreling and grumbling about your wages," said the teacher.

"What shall we do?" asked the tax-gatherers. "Stop lying and stealing," said the voice.

Then everybody began to ask, "What shall we do?" And John answered, "Be ready always to be kind and generous to everyone that needs your help."

Thus John told how the great King would know his friends. "He is like that farmer over there fanning wheat. He will pick out the good and burn up the bad. He is like that woodman with the axe. He will cut down the trees that bear no fruit."

Then John took all those who wanted to be ready for Jesus and baptized them, to show that they wished to give up sin. That is why he is called John the Baptist.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Where did John the Baptist live? Ans.—In the wilderness.
2. Where did he preach? Ans.—Beside the river Jordan.
3. Who came to hear him? Ans.—Great crowds from the towns and cities.
4. Who did some think he was? Ans.—The Savior Himself.
5. What did John say? Ans.—That he had only come to get ready for Him.
6. What text did John use? Ans.—"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
7. What does "repent" mean? Ans.—Be sorry for your sins and stop doing wrong.
8. Who did John say were like vipers? Ans.—The proud scribes and Pharisees.
9. What did he tell the soldiers to do? Ans.—To stop quarreling and grumbling.
10. The tax-gatherers? Ans.—To be honest.
11. The people? Ans.—To do all the good they could.
12. Who did John say was coming? Ans.—One so great that he was not fit to untie His shoes.
13. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"Prepare ye the way of the Lord."



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should Turn from Sin



Primary Catechism—68. What do we mean by the ten commandments?

The ten commandments are God's holy law.

69. Which is the first commandment?

The first commandment is "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Shorter Catechism—3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Lesson Hymn

There is a city bright,
Closed are its gates to sin;
Nought that defileth,
Nought that defileth
Can ever enter in.

Saviour, I come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I pray—
Cleanse me and save me,
Cleanse me and save me,
Wash all my sins away.

Amen.

—Hymn 587, Book of Praise.