

A Confrontation with Some Snakes

Matthew 3:7-12

(series #7)

Intro: the despicable character or nature of religion

- I. The Bold Pronouncement of John v. 7**
 - A. The Pharisees - the religious legalists
 - 1. They added their traditions to the word
 - 2. They were prideful about their legalism
 - B. The Sadducees - the religious liberals
 - 1. They subtracted from the word
 - 2. They denied the supernatural
 - C. John referred to them as a “brood of vipers”
 - 1. Matthew 12:34, 23:33
 - 2. They appeared harmless, but were deadly

- II. The Bold Exhortation of John vv. 8-10**
 - A. “Bear fruits worth of repentance”
 - B. “Don’t trust in your lineage or bloodline”
 - C. “Fruitless trees will be cut down”

- III. The Dividing of Humanity by Messiah vv. 11-12**
 - A. He will baptize with the Spirit - 1 Cor. 12:13
 - B. He will baptize with fire (judgement)

Concluding applications: which camp are you in?