



Words for Wondering

An Advent to Epiphany Course from the
Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Friday 12th December

Brood



Scripture: **Matthew 3:5-10**

But when he (John the Baptist) saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Reflection

John the Baptist is calling the Pharisees and Sadducees a ‘brood of vipers’. He is accusing them of hypocrisy, He knows that they oppose what he is doing and yet they are turning up and coming out against baptism or coming up for baptism. However, either way John the Baptist knows that they are not being sincere. John is pointing to Jesus’ work in the world which is to come, to both judgement and hope. There is going to be a grand transition: the advent of a new age that can be reached only by finding a way through the wilderness and living through judgment into hope.

To Listen

On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry by John Chandler and Charles Coffin.