

“The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness”

Sermon Notes

- **If your evangelistic passion for your 'List of 5' has become too wet to burn, these truths are a flamethrower**

**The soul-winning ministry of John the Baptist reminds us that the message of the gospel...*

1. ...actually _____ in space time _____ (vv.1-2a)

2. ...actually aims to change peoples' _____, not just _____ (vv.2b-3)

3. ...actually contains past and future _____ of ancient biblical _____ (vv.4-6)

Next Week: Luke 3:7-14 - “Bear Fruits in Keeping With Repentance”

Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of January 29th – February 4th

Please read Luke 3:1-6.

1. What is the significance of the word of the Lord coming to John in Luke 3:1? (See Jeremiah 1:2; Hosea 1:1; Micah 1:1; Haggai 1:1; Numbers 24:2; Judges 3:10; 1 Samuel 19:23-24)
 - a. Is this difference a result of him being strong in spirit? (Luke 1:80)
 - b. Was John filled with the Spirit of God from his birth? (Luke 1:15) Is this related to his strength of spirit?

2. What is significant about John's ministry being in the desert?
 - a. What happens in the wilderness that doesn't happen in Jerusalem? (See Ezekiel 20:33-38)
 - b. What is the effect of the encounter in the wilderness on Israel? (See Hosea 2:14-23)

3. John proclaims a baptism of repentance.
 - a. Did John's baptism lead to repentance or was it a requirement for repentance? (In other words, did John's baptism precede and result in repentance? See Psalm 51:7-9; Isaiah 4:2-6; Ezekiel 36:25-26) Please explain.
 - b. Were people baptized by John because they had repented? (In other words, did John's baptism follow repentance? See Isaiah 1:16-17; Jeremiah 4:14) Please explain.
 - c. Was John's baptism a symbol of repentance? Why or why not?
 - d. How was John's baptism different from the baptism of Jesus? (See Acts 2:38; Luke 3:16)
 - e. Acts 19:4 suggests that John's baptism is incomplete. What was missing? Were those John baptized truly forgiven?

4. The baptism of repentance that John proclaimed was "for the forgiveness of sins."
 - a. Does that mean that John's baptism resulted in the forgiveness of sins? Why or why not?
 - b. Does that mean that repentance resulted in the forgiveness of sins (See Luke 1:77)? Or was something else required? (See Matthew 26:28) Please explain.

5. In Luke 3:4-6, the evangelist quotes from Isaiah 40:3-5.
 - a. What had Isaiah been talking about in the verses prior to this quotation? (Isaiah 40:1-2)
 - b. What does this indicate about John's relationship to the consolation of Israel that Simeon and Anna had been awaiting? (Luke 2:25; 38)

6. In verse 5, when Luke quotes Isaiah, he uses the same Greek word ($\tauαππεινóω$) to refer to what will happen to the mountains (that he uses in Luke 14:11) to describe the fate of those who exalt themselves.

- a. Is the preparation to be made for the Lord's coming something that is done to actual mountains and valleys, or does it refer to something else? If so, what?
- b. What do the crooked roads that must be made straight represent? (See Acts 2:40; Philippians 2:15; Proverbs 2:20)

7. Compare Luke's quotation of Isaiah in Luke 3:4-6 with John 1:23, Matthew 3:3, and Mark 1:3.

- a. What has Luke included that the other gospel writers left out?
- b. What has Luke skipped over from the quotation from Isaiah? (Isaiah 40:3-5) What has been emphasized by quoting Isaiah in this way (See Acts 28:28)?