

The Great Physician

Luke 3:1-38

- We left off with Jesus being born into the world and the response of those who God chose to reveal Him to > Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zacharias, Shepherds and Wisemen, Simeon and Anna. Individuals who if it was up to the world wouldn't have been the first to know or see the most important event in the history of mankind, and yet these are who God did choose.
- Now we move forward seventeen years and a lot has changed, Tiberius Caesar has succeeded his stepfather the first Roman Emperor Augustus, Luke like any good historian lists the political leaders of the region Pontius Pilate the governor of Judea, Herod the Tetrarch of Galilee, Philip of Ituraea, Lysanias of Abilene, while Annas and Caiaphas were the High Priests. Luke gives real historical records in order to show the spiritual and political framework from which Jesus and John the Baptist began their public ministry in, and therefore we can understand the climate.

V1-38

- **V1-3** until now there has been no prophetic voice heard in Israel for **400yrs**, its roughly **A.D. 29** based upon the historical records when Tiberius Caesar began to rule which was **A.D. 14**. Although Luke mentions seven different men including a Roman Emperor, Governors, and High Priests, God's Word was not sent to any of them, instead the message of God came to John a humble servant from a nondescript family, living not in a palace but residing in the desert.
- His message was not one of universal blessings just because you belonged to a certain lineage, nationality, or culture, but one of "**Repentance in order to receive forgiveness of sins**". All of those men qualified for the job as they all were sinners in need of forgiveness, but none of them had the heart or the courage to admit what they truly were and receive what they really needed
- **V4-6** John fulfilled **Is 40:3-5**- before a king would come visit a province a forerunner would come and make sure the roads were smooth and straight for him to travel. Spiritually John was preparing the people's hearts for the coming Messiah, smoothing and making straight the path that leads directly to the hearts and minds of those willing to receive the forgiveness of sins.
- We've already read how he came through supernatural birth as his parents were unable to bear children and had passed the age of conceiving and yet God allowed them in spite of the physical limitations of man to have a son who would not only be a blessing to them but to the whole world. Now we see here why he came "to prepare a nation and consequently the world for the Messiah". But before that notice the manner John was living, we see that he came from the wilderness to make sure the roads were read for the King to travel and speak.
- Spiritually speaking the nation of Israel was also a "**wilderness of unbelief**" and the roads to spiritual truth was all twisted and rundown and barely passable, as the corruption of the Priesthood and the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees had paralyzed the nation spiritually. So the people desperately needed to hear a voice from God and John was that faithful voice. It was John's task to prepare the nation for the Messiah and then present the Messiah to them.

- **V7-9** John must have didn't get the memo that were not to tell people the truth if it hurts people's feelings, as he's not there to coddle or pamper only to lead them to greener pastures. He not only rebuked their sins he also announced their freedom, telling them to repent, I love this, as John shows that without conviction there can be no conversion, as man must first see his need in order to come and receive his help, as notice John addresses their penchant for making excuses **V8 "we have Abraham as our father"**, John tells them that is not enough to save you.
- True repentance will always bear "**good fruit**" the basic fruit of the Christian life is "**love**" and love produces humility and transparency, and that will always lead to wanting to know the truth no matter how it makes you feel or what changes you may need to make > **Eph 5:8-14**.
- **V10-14** the people understand that at this point they were useless trees as expressed by John in **V9** that would end up being chopped down, so they ask "**what shall we do**"? John the **preacher** now becomes John the **teacher**, and he tells them that a **surrendered heart** leads to a **tender heart** which causes them to be a **giver V11, honest V12, content V14**. Tax collectors, soldiers, married, single, people from all walks of life began to hear about the man living in the desert, wearing funny clothes, eating grass hoppers, and yet speaking words that penetrate our hearts.
- **V15-18** some of the people misunderstood who John was and wrongly believed that he was the "**Messiah**", if John was about **self promotion** or **self advancement** he easily could have passed himself off as some great man for them to worship and financially support, but he doesn't. **Lk 1:17**- his job was to prepare the **hearts of the people for the Lord**, and in **Lk 1:76**- preach a **message of repentance to the Lord**, and he never tried to do more or less than what he was called to do as he knew his role and he played it perfectly, causing Jesus to say of John > **Math 11:11**- "**I tell you among women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist**" Wow!
- John tells the listeners that he has come with "**a baptism of water**" but the Messiah whose sandals he is not worthy to loose will baptize with fire. Many wrongly believe that's a reference to **Acts 2**, but **V17** makes it clear John is speaking of judgment, as a winnowing fan and threshing floor is sued to separate the wheat from the chaff, meaning believers from unbelievers.
- **V19-20** as usual with success there will be opposition, and with the sharing of truth there is no room for the faint of heart, as John just as he spoke the truth about the religious leaders he also spoke the truth about the political leaders. The relationship between Herod and Herodias was sinful as he stole her from her husband who happened to be his half brother, and he was her uncle, so he married a woman who was both his sister in law and his niece which both **Lev 18:16, 20:21**, spoke out against forbidding a man to take his brother's wife.
- John spoke the truth about the sin and it cost him his freedom, and although scripture tells us that Herod liked hearing John because of Herodias his wife who despised him for calling them out he put John in Jail. **V21-23** before this Jesus Himself also came to John to be baptized, and John recognizing Who He was, didn't want to saying "**he was in need to be baptized by Him**". But Jesus just as He did as a baby always identified with sinners, as we know he needed not to be forgiven for His sins as He had none, but like on the cross He identifies with sinful man.

- While He was being baptized Luke says that Jesus prayed and that's when a voice from heaven spoke and the Holy Spirit came in bodily form like a dove and was present at Jesus baptism. He's the only one who mentions that this occurred when Jesus prayed, also this is the first of three times that the Father spoke from heaven. We see the three Persons of the Trinity all manifested at once as **"The Holy Spirit"** **"The voice of God the Father"** and **"The Beloved Son of God"**.
- **V23** says it was after this obedience that Jesus began His public ministry, baptism although not needed for salvation is very important as it pertains to our sanctification. Jesus didn't make Himself completely known until He had publicly been baptized, and for the believer baptism is where we declare to the world who we are that we're now under new management and we are God's children and He is our God. When people don't want to be baptized it's a sign that they don't want to change, and that's when we need to question whether they really got saved.
- **V24-38** The genealogy of Jesus through the line of Mary and we see that Mary was a descendant of King David, just as Joseph. What's amazing is Joseph came from a line that included the wicked King "Jeconiah" who in **Jer 22:28-30**- God said wouldn't produce any heirs because of his sin this seemingly would put God in an impossible predicament as how can the Messiah's line continue? Physically it didn't need to as Mary another descendant of David by marrying Joseph through the Law of adoption made Jesus **physically**-Mary, and **spiritually**- Joseph, the legal heir.