

PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE MESSIAH
LUKE 3
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John baptizes and proclaims good news (v.1-20)

1. Prophetic
 - A. Exodus
 - B. Exile
2. Bear Fruit
 - A. True Religion
 - B. Good Fruit
 - C. Good News for Everyone
3. Judgment is coming
 - A. Wrath
 - B. Ax
 - C. Fire
4. Messiah's baptism
 - A. Christ is Exalted
 - B. Baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire

Jesus' baptism and genealogy reveals the Son of God (v.21-38)

1. The Human Son of God
 - A. Jesus' Genealogy
 - B. Jesus' Baptism
2. The Divine Son of God
 - A. The Holy Spirit
 - B. The Father

FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What is one area where your life needs to bear more gospel fruit?
2. All Christian ethics are derived from a life surrendered to the exalted Christ and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Pray for one another, asking God to help you live more dependent upon His Spirit.
3. John the Baptist took the low place to exalt Christ. What is an area in your life where you need to go low to exalt Christ?
4. Do you believe Jesus took your place, that he lived your life and died your death, so that you can experience the Father's good pleasure? Contemplate the humility of Christ and thank God for grace.
5. Jesus said, 'The meek shall inherit the earth.' Is your life and ministry marked by gentleness?
6. Read Psalm 2, Isaiah 40:1-11, and Isaiah 42:1-17, and then reread Luke 3. What new insights stand out as you consider these Old Testament texts that both John the Baptist and Jesus were saturated in as they began their unique ministries?
7. Apart from Christ's work, no one will ever hear God say, "*You are my beloved. With you, I am well pleased.*" Yet in Christ, we are new creations, the old has gone, the new has come. Marvel and worship God that in Christ we are God's sons and daughters and He takes great pleasure in us.

John the Baptist, one of the most radical prophets within the canon of Scripture, calls people to repentance