

Sermon Outline - Sun, Jan 9, 2021 - Vision in the Meantime
Luke 3:1-20

Overview: Welcome to the 2nd Sunday of Vision Month at New Roots. We been looking at the life of John the Baptist a prophet who had a vision of Jesus' coming far before anyone else. Or working title is Vision in the Meantime.

Review –

- John knows his purpose from a young age and that made things tough.
- He wasn't conventional or fashionable and didn't seem to care what folks thought of him
- His willingness to be bold made him the odd guy out
- He manages to see what is possible when everyone else is caught up in the realities of occupation and the oppression of the empire
- How does he learn to function from a sense of vision when others are not?

The Key Points – How does John learn to wait?

1. He is clear that he is not the main attraction. He is waiting on God.
2. He is waiting actively - clear that there are conditions that will prepare folks for radical transformation
3. He leans into preparing their hearts and minds to receive Jesus – creating the conditions

John's Message

1. **Get ready for a shake up!** – If you want a revolution it won't come without shaking up
2. **Don't get caught up in the covenant / Don't be entitled** - The shaking up is not just for the oppressor. God doesn't "owe" you – You need to be ready to be part of the plan.
3. **Lean into Radical Sharing** - Be ready to give more to those in need and to make bigger family. These are instructions for movement-building.

Questions

1. The world around us is certainly shaking. Take a moment to write down – where are their things being disrupted that you celebrate and see God moving? What shaking is causing you anxiety about your life or the world? Sit with these two lists and commit to some prayer to understand what they say about your comfort or discomfort with God's radical movement?
2. John challenges the notion that there are some people that are in God's covenant and some out. How does this idea sit with you? How does your spiritual history and thinking make you open or closed to the idea that no one is entitled to "feel from the wrath to come."
3. John directs the people to the practice of radical sharing and expanding their circle of concern. Where are you called to do that? What resources can you share? To whom are you called be in deeper relationship? How might that connect with the Radical Giving Challenge at New Roots?

NOTE – Begin to think about a ritual like baptism that cements your commitment to making the shift to which you are called and to being a vision of Jubilee in the Meantime.