

Sermon Outline - Sun, February , 2022 – The Economy of Locust & Honey
Isaiah 1:11-17; Matthew 3:1-4

Recap –

- For the past few months we have been looking at the life and legacy of John the Baptist.
- December – His birth – The reaction of his father compared to the reaction of Mary
- January – How he found vision in the midst of mean times creating a movement for Jesus

This Month's Focus

- While John is thought of as a lone ranger, often in the wilderness by himself it is very likely that he was actually tied to the Qumran or Essenes movements.
- Several hints point to this. (1) His affinity for the wilderness. (2) His consumption of locusts and honey as his primary sustenance. (3) His consistent focus on economic justice and the creation of communities that cared for each other's needs
- This month we step back from looking at the man to look at the movement.
- Over the next four weeks we learn about these particular economic justice movements
- We will look at the diet of locusts and honey to see what God is teaching us through those
- Finally we'll look at economic justice movements in Christianity and particularly how Black folk have worked for economic justice sometimes critiquing capitalism and other times trying to figure out how to make it work for their community in the midst of mean times.
- Eco coming from the Greek word oikos meaning home, household. Ecology – the study of home. Economy – the management of home.
- I want us to state 3 key assumptions that undergird our conversation this month.

The Key Points –

1. **We are in a crisis of identity and of systems. Who will we be and how will we live?** From the climate crisis, deep societal inequity, to deep societal strife - we are in a unique point of societal fragility. These overlapping crises supercharged by the pandemic has caused a rupture and opportunity for something new.
2. **There is no Jubilee without a radical reordering of our values. If we have truly re-ordered our values it should be reflected in how we spend our time, talent and treasure.** Our Isaiah scripture is a clear reminder from God that this is not just about spiritual practice. God tells the people – stop bringing me sacrifices and do the work of justice. We have to be concrete.
3. **Jubilee is not just about personal action but the establishing of systems that direct our actions towards God's economy**– God created a system that inclined people toward justice.

Questions

1. If the world is going through an identity crisis – where are you? Do you feel clear about who you are and who God is calling you to be? What do you need to get more solid on your values?
2. We have clear sense of the injustice in our national and global economies. What values would emerge from an examination of your own personal economies? If you looked at your bank statement, what would it say about your values and commitments?
3. Where do you see opportunities to begin practicing alternate economic values? Where could you start at home, in your small group, with 1 or 2 other friends or what proposal might you bring to this community?