

Sermon Outline - Sun, Jan 2, 2021 - Vision in the Meantime
Luke 3:1-20

Overview: It is January - Vision Month at New Roots. We have had some time to look at the old year and set intentions for the new year and so we think about the need for vision. This year we are working from the theme – Vision in the Meantime

Review –

- Last month we read through Luke 1 and looked at how Mary and Zachariah reacted to the Angel Gabriel’s message that they would have a baby
- Gabriel come to Zachariah to say he is finally going to have the baby boy he longs for. Zachariah freaks out and is like – how is this going to happen – So Gabriel has to shut him up
- Gabriel tells Mary she is going to get pregnant before she is married. Mary knows that it could mess up her engagement to Joseph, that people are definitely going to talk about her and she welcomes the opportunity to be part of God’s plan
- The good news is that Zachariah after 9 months of silence finally gets it. He is able to talk when he says that the baby will be named John meaning “God has been gracious.”
- Zachariah speaks a prophecy over his son - God redeems the people; God raises up a savior; God remembers the covenant; God rescues them from their enemies (the Romans); The people respond with righteousness; The baby prepares them for the way of peace
- In Luke 2 Jesus is born and is a pre-teen in the Temple. And now we are at Luke 3 where John the Baptist is grown up and we hear a little bit about his ministry.

The Key Points –

1. **John is clear that he is not the main event but that he is supposed to prepare the way for the Messiah.** It is good to know things are going to change, but John has to live with this message in a time where no one else sees the vision that he does.
2. **He has to hold the vision in the meantime** because he is waiting for Jesus. He has to figure out how to prepare folks to receive Jesus. He is also competing with a lot of other leaders and doctrines who are claiming to be the way and
3. **John has to hold the vision in mean times.** Roman occupation is rough. It causes people to go bankrupt because of taxes. Folks are being gentrified out of their communities.

Questions

1. What is the vision that you are holding out for? Is there a word that God has spoken to you for the future that you need to hold on to? If you have it written down, go back and look at it. If not, take this opportunity to write it down and maybe sit in meditation imagining it.
2. What is your relationship with waiting? Does it make you impatient? Complacent? In what ways is God calling you to get more serious about how you act in the meantime?
3. We are clearly in mean times in many different ways. How does the oppression of our time work against your spiritual growth? How can you find the mean times as a space for growth and maturity?