

LIFEwork - Week of January 10, 2021 - Luke 3:1-22 - John, the Firestorm

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back through the message and notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

What was the single "highlight" that impacted you and why?

Getting Started:

Think for a minute about fire. Have you ever experienced a fire? What good things does fire do? What harmful things does it do? The Gospel of Luke is set in the first century. The nation of Israel is living under the heavy hand of Rome and is struggling with internal division as well. A man appears on the scene whose life affects many people. He is a fiery man, and he speaks of fire in many different ways. This man is of such character and influence that some think he may be the Messiah. He is not. But he is a significant person in the history of Christianity. His name is John.

1. Read again this whole first section, Luke 3:1-22. Before we have any further questions, beyond what pastor highlighted, what points jump out at you in this section?
2. Be reminded of Luke's goals for what he writes. Look more closely at the first two verses and see what they contribute to the passage. History shows that Herod and some of the other people listed here were known to be morally and spiritually degenerate. What is the source of their authority as leaders? How does it compare with John's?
3. We're introduced to John's work in verse three. What was it? What does it mean to repent?
*To repent means to be genuinely sorry for sin and to turn from it to obey God resolutely.
Sin means living outside the will of God, failing to trust him. It is more than just bad morals.*
4. "A Baptism of repentance" When people came to be baptized by John, they confessed their sin and made a "U-turn" toward God. John then baptized them into that commitment. When John baptized people, this represented a radical cleansing of their lives and willingness/commitment to change direction towards God in faith and trust.

Personal Challenge: Where do you need to do the same?

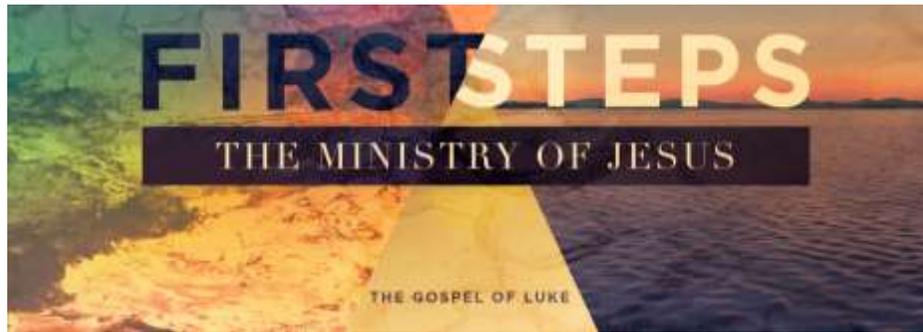
I.E. --- areas where you KNOW that you are out of alignment with God's will for you, but you just choose to not TURN from it.

Perhaps today is a great day to commit to that shift in your life.

5. In verses 4-6, Luke quotes from the prophet Isaiah to help us understand more about John's ministry. Look carefully at the picture Isaiah paints and dig out the facts there. What do you think this is describing? (*This is a picture of a middle-eastern king and his herald. In those days, when a ruler took a journey, a servant or herald was sent ahead of him. This herald warned the people of the land to prepare the roadway through the wilderness for the arrival of the king. Holes in the road had to be filled, bumps and high places leveled, crooked sections straightened and rough spots smoothed.*) How is John a herald for "King" Jesus? What did it mean for John to make crooked places straight and the rough ones smooth? What does this have to do with "repentance"?
6. The next paragraph, verses 7-9, tells us that a great number of people are coming to John for baptism. How does the text explain why John is so stern with them? What would be a contemporary way of saying, "I'm okay. I have Abraham as my father"? How does John confront this kind of complacency?
7. As you look at the dialog in verses 10-14, what do you find out about these people? What are they like in everyday life? What is John emphasizing about genuine repentance? (*It has a practical, social context- repentance has to do with social justice!*) What would practical repentance look like for us today?
8. According to verse 15, what is the atmosphere of the crowd and the situation? From verses 15-17, what do you learn about John?
9. What does John make clear about Christ in verses 15-17? What is surprising about this picture of the Messiah? How do you respond to this? How would the baptism by Jesus be different from the baptism by John? How would its effects be different in your everyday life? (*The baptism by John was only preparatory. The baptism by Jesus is real, permanent, and has the powerful meaning that the Holy Spirit is truly there-that God is with us and in us.*)
10. In verse 18 John's preaching is called good news. How is this word of a coming judge who will baptize with fire good news? How did he respond to this and other things John said?
11. According to John's fiery witness, who is Jesus? What do you think of the Jesus presented here, and in Luke so far?

In Closing:

It would be positive to honestly share your own "baptism" experience. Have you had a moment / moments where God the Holy Spirit has called you out / has inspired you to "turn"? Invite your brothers and sisters to pray with you and even hold you accountable. Pray also for anything else that is going on in your life. Thank you for gathering and modeling what being the body of Christ FOR each other looks like.



The Baptism of Jesus - Luke 3:15-22
January 10, 2021 – Pastor D. R. Hilken

The Baptism story: [4](#) for [4](#) --- JB & JC

John the Baptist

The Great one/Cousin and PK/the [LAST](#) prophet

[Great](#): *What you do with what God gives,
to make it count for the glory of the Lord.*

John is ... Terrible [MARKETER](#) ~ Horribly [OFFENSIVE](#)

Hume/Whitefield story

Baptism of [REPENTANCE](#) / Holy Spirit / Fire

Luke 3:21-22 --- ²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Lessons from these two verses:

1) [AFTER](#) Jesus was baptized and was [PRAYING](#)

2) Heaven opened

3) Spirit descended in bodily form, like a dove

4) The Voice & What the Voice said

Psalm 2:7 ~ Genesis 22:2 ~ Isaiah 42:1

5) Jesus, in his humanity, now [ANOINTED](#)
to take on His [MESSIAH](#) Ministry

Upon the occasion of Jesus' baptism, He was

- ✘ Affirmed
- ✘ Authorized
- ✘ Anointed

What this event means for you

who have been baptized [INTO](#) Jesus?

- ✘ Jesus established [SOLIDARITY](#) with me, the sinner
- ✘ Affirmed ~ Authorized ~ Anointed
- ✘ "You are my beloved [CHILD](#); with you I am well pleased."