GOD INVADES HUMANITY SO HUMANS CAN BECOME LIKE GOD

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF LUKE

Luke 3:1-38

" USING YOUR VOICE FOR THE RIGHT REASONS"

INTRODUCTION: We have become accustomed to having important people receive an introduction before they make their appearance. It happens in sports, politics, performances, and many other venues. In ancient times, a king always had a herald or group of persons go before him to announce his coming. One man in human history had the assignment of introducing the King of Kings to the world. He and his assignment were so important that he was the only New Testament prophet that was spoken of over 700 years before his birth.

BACKGROUND: After we learn about the births of John the Baptizer and the Lord Jesus, the Spirit of God only revealed one statement from Jesus during His first 30 years. During those decades of silence, the Lord was preparing these two men for their public ministries. The people of Israel were not aware that their King was about to make a grand entrance, and they were not ready for it.

I. GOD SPEAKS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE THEMSELVES TO HEAR HIS VOICE. HE DOES NOT CARE ABOUT HUMAN TITLES OR POSITIONS. (Luke 3:1-6)

A. Luke carefully notes the human leaders that were ruling over God's people, making sure his readers had a historical context. Unlike other religious writings, the Lord made sure we could verify His actions and the exact times He intervened in human history. (Luke 3:1-2)

B. John received a specific message from the Lord. (Logos is the overall message whereas Rhema is specific) .Scripture often repeats how John the Baptizer spent time alone preparing to fulfill his purpose in life. We must learn to embrace the loneliness needed to be prepared for impactful public ministry. Many refuse to pay the price yet they want the glory. The wilderness does not have to be a place of punishment, as it can become a learning opportunity to trust the Lord.

C. John the Baptizer humbly called himself "just a voice" as he served as the herald and forerunner for Jesus the Christ. As he fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah, he faithfully ministered in the Jordan River area, challenging Jews to repent and be baptized, something they only required of Gentile converts. He was using his voice to be a voice for the Lord. Are we doing the same?? (Luke 3:4-6) (John 1:18-23)

II. IF YOU CHOOSE TO BE A VOICE FOR THE LORD, YOU WILL SAY WHAT PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR, NOT JUST WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR. (Luke 3:7-20)

A. John the Baptizer was not afraid to expose religious leaders for their hypocrisy. Imagine calling respected leaders a brood of poisonous snakes! Like religious practitioners today, they were trusting their religious practices and family relationships rather than trusting the Lord. Genuine faith produces works that prove repentance has taken place, (Luke 3:7-9)

B. Be prepared to tell repentant sinners exactly what they need to do. Those who have been doing wrong all their lives may not know how to do what is right! There are practical ways to share our blessings with others. God loves a cheerful giver, and it does not always have to be money that we share with others! (Luke 3:10-14)

C. John the Baptizer never tried to bring glory to himself and was actually irritated when people did not understand his assignment. The people needed to repent and acknowledge their king if they wanted to be a part of His kingdom. (Matthew 3:1-2 (John 1:19-23)

D. John's boldness would cost him his freedom and eventually his life. He dared to call out Herod for his adultery and other murderous deeds. It takes courage to use your voice to speak truth to power, and our generation needs to have that same courage in our evil and adulterous society. (Luke 3:18-19) (1st Peter 4:11)

E. John's baptism was for sinners to repent and prepare to worship their Messiah. Jesus would be baptized in water simply to identify with those He came to save. He will baptize all believers into one Body at conversion by the Holy Spirit. (1st Corinthians 12:13) Fire baptism can indicate purification for believers, and judgment for unbelievers. (Luke 3:20-21) (Matthew 3:12)

III. GOD THE SON IS ALSO THE SON OF MAN. HE HEARD THE FATHER'S VOICE WHILE OTHERS ONLY HEARD THUNDER. (Luke 3:21-38) (Psalm 18:13) (Exodus 19:19)

A. When Jesus identified with those He came to save, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove and the Father's voice was heard for the first time in centuries. We call this His anointing for public ministry, even though He was filled with the Spirit His entire life.

B. Jesus heard words of loving affirmation that others did not understand. In a similar fashion, Saul of Tarsus would clearly hear God's voice while others only heard a noise. (Acts 9:7; 22:6-10) Do you know when the Lord is speaking directly to you? Do you really know He loves you? (Luke 3:21-22) (John 14:21)

C. Luke, the historian, traced the lineage of Jesus all the way back to the first Adam. Jesus was 100% human and 100% God. No one should ever doubt the Creation story if they read Luke's gospel. Do you ever stop to think how many people the Lord brought together to give you life? The Lord planned for you to be here on earth, and wants you to spend time with Him so you can live the life He has ordained for you. (Jeremiah 1:5)

YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A VOICE TO COMMUNICATE IN A UNIQUE WAY WITH OTHERS. A MAIN PURPOSE FOR YOUR VOICE IS TO GIVE PRAISES TO THE LORD THROUGHOUT ALL TIME AND ETERNITY. THOSE WHO HEAR HIS VOICE, KNOW HIM, LOVE HIM, OBEY HIM, AND LIVE FOR HIM. (John 10:27-28) THOSE WHO IGNORE HIS VOICE WILL CRY OUT IN AGONY FOREVER. CHOOSE WISELY WHILE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO DO SO.

Dr. Ronald J. Morrison
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