

Series "Knowing The Exact Truth"
"Preparing For Jesus"
Luke 3:1-14
Study-9

Luke 3:3 "Preparing For Jesus" by calling people to repentance.

The proclaimer of God's Word should not only present Good News but must also proclaim the Bad News.

Thought Of Our Passage: "God's Message Of Repentance When Obeyed, Will Result In The Bringing Forth Of Spiritual Fruit."

- 1. Verses 1-2 - John's Time**
- 2. Verses 3-9 - John's Message**
- 3. Verses 10-14- John's Application**

1. Verses 1-2 John's Time

Luke 3:1 Now (Context) marks the next transition in Luke's account. Luke left off with Jesus at the age of twelve. **Luke 2:52**

Luke continues his work as a historian, now listing 7 Names to establish the date and context of his account.

A Cruel Tyrant Ruling Rome: in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar,
Reigned 14-37 AD. This places John's ministry 28-29 AD.
Jesus is now 30 years

Weak Governor In Judea: when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,

Three Power-Crazy Sons Of Herod The Great Ruling: and Herod was tetrarch (1/4 Ruler but listed three parts) of Galilee, Herod the Antipas 4 BC-39 AD.

and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Another son of Herod The Great. He built Caesarea Philippi.

and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,
Little is known of this man but what is recorded

Luke 3:2 Two Scheming High Priests Ruling: in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,

The High Priest **Annas** had been priest from **6-15 AD** then followed by his four sons in succession, then by his son-in-law **Caiaphas (18-36 AD)** about **27-29 AD**

the word of God came to John,

literally, "*the Word of God came unto John*" experience with God
the son of Zacharias, 400 years of silence is broken.

Last mention of John - **Luke 1:80**

John developed strong convictions, a strong character

in the wilderness. Why in the wilderness? **The nation was spiritually barren, and religion had led Israel into the wilderness.**

2. Verses 3-9 John's Message

Luke 3:3 John Stood Alone: And he came into all the district around the Jordan, - The Religious heard and investigated John, **John 1:19-28**, Filled with Holy Spirit **Luke 1:15**

Mark 1:6 2 Kings 1:8 "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

False prophets would wear the same outfits. **Zechariah 13:4**

and his diet was locusts and wild honey.

Locusts, Leviticus 11:22-23 (grasshoppers) - are loaded with protein.

Honey - carbohydrate.

Does the message we give line up with the life we live?

district around the Jordan, Why the wilderness? **The nation was spiritually barren, and religion had led them into the wilderness.**

baptism of repentance -

"Baptism **of** repentance," not a "Baptism **for** repentance."

This baptism was to prepare hearts for salvation.

To humble and admit my need for God's forgiveness of sin.

baptism - "to dip, or die, to submerge" Baptism was known to the Jews.

repentance - "change of mind, change of heart, to turn around"

for the forgiveness of sins. Only Jesus can forgive sins.
(Faith in the coming Messiah)

Only after repentance can forgiveness come and then reconciliation!

Verses 4-6 John's Message Was God's Word From The OT: Luke 3:4 Isaiah 40:3-5 (Passage used in all 4 Gospels) Note that the Good News was based off the Old News. **John's Ministry Was of Preparation:**

Luke 3:5 Luke 1:76 go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS:

'EVERY RAVINE - *low places, valleys - (Potholes of iniquity) chasms, depths of evil of the heart. WILL BE FILLED*, receiving pardon, being filled.

EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL - *the high places, the peaks - pride, arrogance, self-made religion, high places of self-centeredness, Pharisees, Sadducees with pride. BROUGHT LOW*; would be brought down through humility and repentance.

THE CROOKED - *hypocrisy, deceptive actions* – Publicans convicted of dishonesty **SHALL BECOME STRAIGHT**, Repentance would transform the crooked to straight.

AND THE ROUGH ROADS - *rude, violent, unpleasant paths* (Soldiers) **SMOOTH**;

What was the great highway that John was building?

It was repentance.

Luke 3:6 All mankind. Salvation is for all men because all are in need.

Luke 3:7 So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him,

John's Discernment – Knew the crowds to be Phony, Fake! **Matthew 3:5-6**

"You brood of vipers, literally "sons of snakes"

**who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
(Literally, "Who tipped you off?")**

wrath to come? After death, a person is judged! Heaven or hell?

Luke 3:8 "Therefore, Therefore? Repentance must be genuine, bear fruits in keeping with repentance, Galatians 5:22-23

**John says genuine repentance always results in fruitfulness!
Matthew 7:19-21**

Depend Upon God Not Religion, Ancestry, Or Covenants: that from these stones, God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

Abraham was referred to as a rock: **Isaiah 51:1-2**

Luke 3:9 "Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees;

Talk about getting their attention.

John being a faithful witness, stressed the urgency of repentance!

so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." The only hope is repentance that results in real fruitfulness.

3. Verses 10-14 John's Application

Luke 3:10 Acts 2:37 "Brethren, what shall we do?"

They now want to know what God would have of them.

(Evidence of repentance)

- 1. The Crowds: 10 "Then what shall we do?"**
- 2. The Tax-gatherers: 12 And some tax-gatherers "Teacher, what shall we do?"**
- 3. The Soldiers: 14 And some soldiers were questioning him, ...what shall we do?"**

Verses 10-11 Crowds - Don't Be Selfish: Luke 6:26

Luke 3:11 And he would answer and say to them, John gave ethical advice.

People Are To Share: "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."

Verses 12-13 Tax-Collectors - Don't Be Dishonest: Luke 3:12

tax-gatherers were hated by fellow Jews.

Luke 3:13 Tax Collectors are to take what is proper: (Overreach of Government) Zacchaeus converted and was willing to give back 4 times as much **Luke 19:8**

Verse 14 Soldiers - Don't Be Violent: Luke 3:14 Soldiers – Probably Jews drafted or compelled into service for Rome.

"Do not take money from anyone by force,
The word **force (extort)** – literally, *"to shake violently"*

or accuse anyone falsely, The idea of blackmail, extortion

Application:

- 1.** God Sent His Messenger John When Israel Was At Its Lowest Both Politically And Spiritually. It Started With God's Word Coming To God's Servant.
- 2.** There Is No Forgiveness Unless There Is Genuine Repentance. Genuine Repentance Always Results In The Bearing of Fruit.
- 3.** When The Spirit of God, Works In Conjunction With The Word Of God It, Produces A Quest To Know What Is The Will Of God.