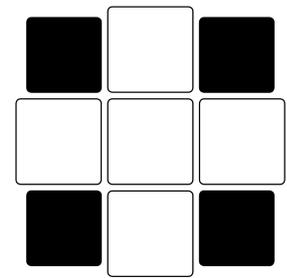


John the Baptist

Scripture: **Luke 3:1-20**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, May 28, 2017



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

In this exciting passage, Jesus' ministry is about to begin as John the Baptist receives the Word of God in the wilderness and prepares the way of the Lord, thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy from 700 years earlier. John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, while at the same time challenging the crowds who are not repenting in a God-ward and internally sincere manner. **If we are not repenting of sin, we are not believing the gospel.**

Corroborating Texts

Psalms 51:1-6; 2 Corinthians 7:10-11; Psalm 139:23-24; Isaiah 40:3-5

Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 1:1-20 out loud. Note and discuss any new or surprising observations as you listen to and hear God's Word. How do these fresh observations connect to the sermon message or God's unfolding plan of redemption throughout the bible?
2. What is the significance of the political references in Luke 3:1? [these historical figures set John's and Jesus' ministry in a particular time and place—around 28 AD in Judea]
3. Read Luke 3:3 and 3:7 in succession. Are you surprised by John's reaction to the crowds that formed in response to his preaching? How do you make sense of John's apparently conflicting messages? [John's proclamation is separating wheat from chaff and true believers from imitators just as Jesus did and will do—see Matthew 7:21-23]
4. Think of a time you repented—of either your sinful condition or a particular sin. Was your change of mind more a "legal" or "natural" repentance (i.e. regret for the eternal or temporal consequences of your behavior) or an "evangelical" repentance (regret for how your behavior has dishonored God)?
5. How can you nurture a more sincere, God-ward, internal repentance? [By letting the ministry of the Word and Spirit do its work; see 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24. Ask the following 5 questions.]
 1. What is the essence or root of your sin?
 2. How does this sin dishonor God?
 3. How does this sin hinder your faith?
 4. What am I not believing that encourages this behavior?
 5. Confess your sin and embrace Jesus Christ