

Day 1 - Luke 3:1-6 – God’s Word comes to John

Luke 3:7-20 – John’s Message & People’s Responses

- Luke portrays John as prophet of God in line with the prophets of the Old Testament. The messages that came through the prophets were a mix of warning and hope. In this passage what words of warning does John offer? What words of hope?
- How did the common folk respond to John’s message? How did the political and religious leaders respond to John’s message?
- Note 3:4-6 are from Isaiah 40:3-5 where the prophet Isaiah is speaking to Jewish people in Babylonian captivity proclaiming that God will come to lead them through the wilderness and back to Jerusalem. How would Luke readers have understood John’s message for their day? How might it apply to our day?
- According to Luke, John’s baptism (and message) was closely tied to repentance (changing one’s direction or allegiances) and was expected to give rise to behaviors that demonstrated repentance.
- In verses 4-6, different people seek John’s input on what it means to demonstrate deeds worthy of repentance. **What do you learn God’s expectations of humans from these examples?**
- In 3:8-9, what warning is John giving to folks who consider themselves children of Abraham (God) because they are born into covenant community and participate in rituals?
- When people suggest that John is the Messiah (Christ), how does John reply? What does he say about Messiah?
- Based on what you’ve read in Luke so far, what does it mean that the Messiah will baptize with the Spirit and fire?
- **In what areas of your life might John (and the Spirit) challenge you to alter directions or change course?**

Day 2 – Luke 3:21-38 – Jesus’ baptism & Genealogy

- What happens when Jesus is baptized and prays?
- Based on activity of Spirit thus far in Luke, what are the implications that the Spirit descended upon Jesus? What insights do you gain by reading Luke 4:18-21?
- Read Isaiah 42:1-9 what new insights does this create for understanding Luke 3:21-22
- What role does Jesus’ baptism play in his ministry and mission?

- What stands out as you read Jesus' genealogy? Why might Luke trace Jesus back to Adam vs. Matthew who only traces Jesus through Abraham?
- **Reflect upon your own baptism – when you were baptized you too received the Holy Spirit and God through the Church proclaimed “You are a child of God!”**
- **Today listen for the quiet unwavering voice of God reminding you that you are a beloved child of God**

Day 3 – Luke 4:1-13 – Jesus' Tested in the Wilderness

- There is more in the temptation scene than meets the eye. The previous section ends with the phrase 'son of Adam, son of God' (3:38).
- Luke 3:38 (son of Adam, son of God) reminds the reader that God created humanity in God's own image so they could be God's representatives faithfully caring for God's creation in such a way that life flourished. At the same time, they would be reminded that Adam (and Eve) gave in to the temptation to trust their own ways rather than God's ways and in doing so jealousy, envy, broken relationships, death, and evil became the norm.
- God raised up another son (so to speak) – the people of Israel (Exodus 4:22; Hosea 11:1). Israel's mission was called to be God's image bearers who lived according to God's ways and through whom all peoples of the world would experience God's love and grace. But like Adam, Israel turned from God and followed other gods. As a result rather than bringing hope and healing, the participated in brokenness and misery.
- Jesus as son of God empowered by the Holy Spirit proves to be faithful refusing to trust anything or anyone other than God. And thus he becomes the 'son' through whom God's purposes (healing, deliverance, restoration, and hope) will be accomplished. And he is the example for us (daughters and sons of God).
- What echoes of Adam and Eve do you hear in this passage?
- What echoes of Israel in the wilderness do you hear?
- What is the nature of each temptation and how does each seek to undermine Jesus' mission?

- Jesus has demonstrated his unwavering faithfulness to God and his reliance on the Spirit & thus shown he is prepared for the ministry and mission.

Day 4 – Luke 4:14- 30 – Jesus proclaims good news in Nazareth

- Reread 4:14-15. In this summary statement of Jesus' ministry, what do you learn?
- How does this passage connect to the scene surrounding Jesus' baptism in 3:21-22?
- What is the initial response of people to Jesus' teaching?
- Based on 4:19-21, how did Jesus understand/describe his mission/purpose?
- "This is Joseph's son, isn't it?" is often taken as a negative response but what if it is a positive response ... implying that the people anticipate special favor because this man who speaks with authority is one of them! How does that shed light on vv. 23-30?
- What does Jesus say in vv.23-30 that turn the people against him?
 - In essence he says you are not the sole beneficiaries of what God is doing.
 - This is highlighted by stories from Elijah and Elisha
 - In the midst of famine, Elijah was sent to help a widow but she wasn't a Jewish widow. (see 1 Kings 17)
 - And Elisha didn't heal Jewish lepers rather he healed a leper who was commander of an enemy army. (2 Kings 5)
 - Why might this upset the people?

Day 5 – Luke 4:31-44 – Jesus proclaims good news in Capernaum

- In what ways does Jesus begin to fulfill 4:18-22 in Capernaum?
- How does he provide 'release' for the unnamed man and for Simon's mother-in-law?
- What is the response in Capernaum? How is it different than in Nazareth? How is it similar?

Day 6 – Luke 4:14-44 – Reread

- What do we learn about the scale/scope of Jesus' ministry from 4:42-44 and 4:14-44 overall?
- How do Jesus' actions align with his mission?
- What can we learn about our mission as followers of Jesus?