

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#6 – “Prepare Ye the Way” – Luke 3:1-14

I. Introduction

A. We are in big trouble.

1. Peter Cartwright
2. J.C. Ryle

B. Review of Luke 1 and 2.

1. Birth narrative.
2. The Old Testament closed with the hope of the Messiah.
 - a. Malachi 3:1; 4:2

II. Exposition

A. Luke 3:1-2a

1. Listing of 5 gentiles and 2 Jews.

Tiberius Caesar
Pontius Pilate
Herod the Tetrarch (Antipas)
Philip the Tetrarch
Lysanias
Annas
Caiaphas

- a. Luke notes the historical setting for the story of John and Jesus.

B. Luke 3:3b

1. John’s message – Repent and ask for forgiveness.
 - a. There was knowledge of a New Covenant.
 1. Jer. 33:8; 50:20; Ezek. 16:60-63
 - b. Repentance was familiar to the Jews.
 1. Isa. 55:6-7; Ezek. 33:19
2. Baptism – not Christian baptism

C. Luke 3:4-6

1. He lived in the wilderness – Matt. 3:4.
2. Isaiah 40:3-5 -- They would return to the kingdom on a smooth highway.
3. “All flesh shall see the salvation of God.”
 - a. Not that God would save every person, but no boundary will block the gospel.

D. Luke 3:7-14

1. Change in behavior.
2. Three examples cited.
 - a. Multitudes
 - b. Tax collectors
 - c. Soldiers

III. Points for Reflection

A. Our faith is grounded upon historical fact.

1. Information
2. Assent
3. Personal Trust

B. Being a descendent of Abraham could not save the Jews, just as attendance in this church cannot save you.

1. Nothing can save you but Christ alone!

C. Repentance indicates the way into the kingdom but also that we are in the kingdom. (II Corinthians 7:9-11)

1. Eagerness
2. Vindication
3. Fear
4. Longing
5. Zeal
6. Innocent in the matter

D. The gospel is the good news that sets us free, but we may not come to His Holiness on our own terms.