

Insights from Luke

#6: Prepare Ye the Way

Luke 3:1-14

Malachi 3:1, 4:2

“3:1 ‘Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,’ says the Lord of hosts. ... 4:2 ‘But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.’”

Luke 3:1-2a

“¹ Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, 2a in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas....”

Tiberius Caesar

Pontius Pilate

Herod the tetrarch of Galilee
and
Philip the tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis.

Lysanias, tetrarch of Abilene

Annas

Caiaphas

Luke 3:3b

“3b ...preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

Jeremiah 31:34

“³⁴ ‘They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,’ declares the Lord, ‘for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.’””

Isaiah 55:6-7

“⁶ Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”

Ezekiel 33:19

“¹⁹ But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and practices justice and righteousness, he will live by them.”

Luke 3:4-5

“⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,
‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
“Make ready the way of the Lord, make His path straight. ⁵ Every ravine will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be brought low; the crooked will become straight, and the rough roads smooth; ⁶ And all flesh will see the salvation of God.’””

Isaiah 40:3-5

“³ A voice is calling,
‘Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness;
Make smooth in the desert a highway for our
God. ⁴ Let every valley be lifted up, And
every mountain and hill be made low; And let
the rough ground become a plain, And the
rugged terrain a broad valley; ⁵ Then the glory
of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will
see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has
spoken.’”

Luke 3:7-14

“⁷ So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father,’ for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

“¹⁰ And the crowds were questioning him, saying, ‘Then what shall we do?’ ¹¹ And he would answer and say to them, ‘The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise.’ ¹² And some tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, ‘Teacher, what shall we do?’ ¹³ And he said to them, ‘Collect no more than what you have been ordered to.’ ¹⁴ Some soldiers were questioning him, saying, ‘And what about us, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages.’”

**Our faith is grounded
upon historical fact.**

Information

Assent

Personal Trust

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

John 8:33, 39

“³³ They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, “You will become free”?’”

... ³⁹ They answered and said to Him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.’”

Luke 3:8b

“⁸ Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father,’ for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.”

Romans 2:28-29

“²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”

Romans 9:6-7

“⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; ⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: ‘**THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED.**’”

Galatians 3:7,29

“⁷ Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. ... ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.”

**Repentance indicates
the way into the kingdom
but also that we are in the
kingdom.**

II Corinthians 7:9-11

“⁹ I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. ¹⁰ For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹ For behold what *earnestness* this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what *vindication* of yourselves, what indignation, what *fear*, what *longing*, what *zeal*, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be *innocent in the matter*.”

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