

# Luke 3:1-20

## The Ministry of John

# Today's Outline: (Luke 3:1-20)

- **John Prepares the Way (v1-6)**
- **Fruit of Our Repentance (v7-9)**
- **What Fruit Looks Like (v10-14)**
- **What Ministry is About (v15-18)**
- **Persecution in Ministry (v19-20)**

# John Prepares the Way (v1-6)

- Luke gives a historical time period
- John waits in the desert 30 years
  - Are we content where God calls us?
- John hears instruction from God in the wilderness and obeys
  - Are we obeying God's Commands?
- John carries the message of preparation & fulfills the prophecy in Isaiah 40:3
  - This was a spiritual preparation of the people and their hearts for the coming of Jesus

# Fruit of Repentance (v7-9)

- Wickedness in the Jews is called out
- The Abraham convenient won't save you
- It's not just a one time act, true repentance bears fruit
  
- The dead tree is cast into the fire.
- To bear fruit we must abide in Jesus

4 “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:4-6

# Repentance is Directly Connected to Relationship with Jesus

Am I abiding in Christ? Does my life bear fruit?  
Am I truly repentive for my sins?

# What Fruit Looks Like (v10-14)

- The People
  - Giving, Selfless, Caring, Kind
- The Tax Collectors
  - Thankfulness, Generosity, Fair & Just
- The Soldiers
  - Meekness, Honesty, Grateful
- Gal 5:22-23 - The Fruits of the Spirit

It's not just behavior change. It's heart change through abiding in Christ.

# What Ministry is About (v15-18)

## Ministry is about Jesus Christ!

- Sometimes we focus on the person or size and effectiveness of the ministry instead of Christ
- John is a great example of directing his ministry to Jesus. He points to Christ even when the people start focusing on him
- He tells the people of Christ Baptizing with the Holy Spirit and Fire

# What Ministry is About (v15-18)

## Baptism of Water:

- A public confession of repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ as Savior
- A symbol of the old sinful man dying and the new life in Christ
- A command from Christ

Scriptural References: Rom 6:3-4, Mark 16:16, Matt 28:19, Matt 3:13-16, Acts 2:38

# What Ministry is About (v15-18)

## Baptism of The Holy Spirit:

- Makes us part of the body during initial salvation - 1 Cor 12:13
- Empowers us for ministry that points to Christ - Acts 1:8
- Spiritual gifts are given by the Spirit as He wills 1 Cor 12:8-11

# Persecution in Ministry (v19-20)

## Scriptural References:

2 Timothy 3:12 “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”

John 15:18 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.”

Matt 5:10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”