

Luke 3

John the Baptist made everyone uncomfortable. He opened them up to their need for repentance.

Most people fall on one focus:

- All about Repentance
- All about Grace

John's Ministry:

1. Preaching
 - a. Repentance
 - b. Message of Forgiveness of Sin
 - c. The Kingdom
2. Baptism
3. Prophecy
 - a. Future Telling
 - b. Righteous Indignation against sin & corruption
 - c. He is the fulfillment of prophecy

V1- 5 guys mentioned in verse 1 helps us determine the year. This is 29AD. 1 year before Jesus starts his ministry.

Most think John the Baptist just started his ministry and that his ministry only lasted 1 year.

1. **Tiberius Caesar (15th year)**
 - a. About AD 29.
 - b. He ruled over the Roman empire from 14-37.
 - c. Clever but cruel leader. He had aspirations for world domination.
2. **Pontius Pilate**
 - a. Governor of Judea from 26-36

For centuries historians said he never existed. Lots of people questioned the Bible until in the 1960s close to Tel Aviv, they found stones with inscriptions of Pontius Pilate on it with dates. So they finally proved it in the 1960s.

3. Herod Antipas

Lots of different Herods (Agrippa, the great)

- a. Ruled over galilee in the city of Tiberius BC4-AD39
- b. Imprisoned John the Baptist and beheaded him

These guys were Tiberius' puppets.

4. **Philip (herod's brother)**
 - a. Cesarea Philippi BC4-AD34
5. **Lysanias**
 - a. Tetrarch of Abilene (near Damascus)
6. **Caiaphas & Annas High Priests**

There was only supposed to be 1 high priest.

Annas was the Jewish high priest, Caiaphas was the roman high priest. One was political and one was religious.

These 7 guys give us good dating of how it all went down. So this is when JTB's ministry started, AD29.

V2 – The word of God came to John.

The role of an OT prophet was to speak God's word. There was no Bible. People couldn't read the OT.

Theologians on Prophecy

- **John Calvin:** "By the term prophesying I do not mean the gift of foretelling the future, but as in 1 Corinthians 14:3 the science of the interpretation of Scripture, so that a prophet is the interpreter of the divine will... Let us understand prophesying to mean the interpretation of Scripture applied to the present need."

- **Kenneth Gangel**, "The gift of prophecy is congregational preaching which explains and applies God's [written] revelation."
- **Rick Yohn** "The major responsibility of the gift of prophecy today is to study and interpret the Word of God..."[3]
- **Cecil Robeck's**, "a spontaneous manifestation of God's grace, received by revelation, (sometimes as a vision, at other times as impressions or thoughts) and spoken by the Spirit through a Christian who has been given a gift of prophecy, in the language of those who hear the prophetic word spoken." [10] The Christian prophet is a "spokesman for God," much as Aaron was for Moses before Pharaoh (Ex 4:15-17; 7:1), one who speaks what he hears by revelation rather than from his own mind.
- **Foundations of Pentecostal Theology**: "To Prophecy is to speak on behalf of God in the assembly of God's people."

For 400 years there were no prophets until John came.

"upon" in the Greek the preposition is important. Especially with the Holy Spirit's work.

Epi -the word Upon.

Jesus made a big deal about the Holy Spirit's place with, in or on people.

John 14:17 he will be with you – Para

En – in you

Acts 1:8 – he'll come upon you. Epi.

- The Spirit is With all people and that is how he draws men to himself to believe.
- The Spirit is In you when you believe – John 20 – receive the Holy Spirit
 - o Descriptions of what he does IN us – lead us in truth.
- On you happens at Pentecost. Acts 1:8 – what JTB predicted.

Just as we have 1 salvation but that salvation has many parts (election, justification, sanctification, glorification) our encounter with the spirit has 3 parts – salvation, indwelling, baptism.

Simon Ponsonby in his book *God Inside Out*, wrote, "The Holy Spirit is an out of this world experience, but it sends us into the world. It comes from heaven but sends us into society."

"Blaise Pascal called it a night of fire. Evan Roberts called it a burning in his bosom. Wesley called it a second blessing. Pentecostals call it baptism of the spirit. I used to care what you call it. Now, after all my study, after writing all these books, I don't care what you call it, I just care that you get it! Just get it and get on with it!"

The power of God for the purpose of ministry. If a church ever felt dead, its probably a lack of the Spirit's power. The Spirit often works in the word – as we read he says this is for you.

Billy Graham once said,

"Everywhere I go, I find that God's people lack something. They're hungry for something. Their Christian experience is not all that they expected and they often have recurring defeat in their lives ... The greatest need of the world today is that men and women who profess Jesus are filled with the Holy Spirit."

Francis Chan (Forgotten God) pointed out the danger of losing sight of the Holy Spirit when he said,

"If I were Satan and my ultimate goal was to thwart God's kingdom and purposes, one of my main strategies would be to get churchgoers to ignore the Holy Spirit... Without Him, people operate in their own strength and only accomplish human-size results. The world is not moved by love or actions that are of human creation. And the church is not empowered to live differently from any other gathering of people without the Holy Spirit. But when believers live in the power of the Holy Spirit, the evidence in their lives is supernatural. The church cannot help but be different, and the world cannot help but notice."

V3 JTB Himself is the fulfillment of prophecy

- **Isaiah 40:3**
- **Malachi 3:1**

If you compare the words here they aren't exact:

1. Because translation is not an exact science
 - a. Hebrew – to Greek- to Luke's Greek – to our English.
 - b. Septuagint was word for word.
2. Luke cites the Septuagint OT many modern translations use Hebrew manuscripts of the OT

None of the differences are significant. And we can see all the original ones anyway. We know what it literally says but we can choose different translations today. So the real meaning has never been lost.

V4 to save all.

Isaiah 40:3-5 – JTB fulfills this. (matthew & mark cite the same Isaiah passage)

JTB fulfills it, but the chapter seems to be about the children of Israel coming back from Babylon. Dual fulfillment.

JTB was called to prepare the way for the messiah. Cut the trail for the people to get back to the messiah.

“voice of one crying in the wilderness” JTB was just north of the dead sea at the lower part of the Jordan River. Most likely on the Jordan side of the river. Most people get baptized up near Jerusalem where its pretty. But its much more likely that Jesus was baptized way down there in the wilderness in the ugly part.

John 1:28: These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. This is the only mention of this “Bethany on the East bank of the Jordan” in the New Testament.

John 10:40: He [Jesus] went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there.

Probably a place called Al-Maghtas (meaning baptism or immersion in Arabic) in Jordan. Its not the safest place for Jews to go but the Muslims are happy to let Christians see it to honor Jesus.

It was strange for JTB of all people to be the one out in the wilderness because he was the son of a priest – Zacharias & Elizabeth were both of the priestly line. So JTB should have been in Jerusalem doing his time. But instead was out in the wilderness with this special assignment from God.

Most scholars think he was out there for 12-13 years before he was killed.

He wasn't living as a royal priest, he was a wild man – what he ate what he wore.

Prophets were often wild and crazy. Ezekiel walking around naked.

Many say JTB was the last of the OT prophets. He walked his way right from the OT to the NT.

JTB was in the line of Elijah – this is why he was in the wilderness. This was the same wilderness in which Elijah hung out.

2 Kings 2:1-13

This is where Elijah hung out. So people thought he was Elijah back from the dead. He looked and smelled like Elijah.

Malachi 3:1-6 told us that Elijah would come in the last days.

V7 –JTB has harsh words. But these harsh words are needed.

The people in John's day needed to hear it. They thought they were automatically holy because they were Jews but JTB brings a wakeup call.

V8-9 scary stuff, that he will cut down the tree. This is the wrath of God.

John 8:31-33 they thought because of their ethnicity that they had a get out of jail free card.

Claiming they were never slaves to anyone seems to forget the 450 years in Egypt. They were offended by Jesus' words.

V34 – If you commit sin you are a slave to sin.

V35-42 They realize Jesus is calling them out so they insult Jesus' virgin birth.

They had a false sense of security, thinking they were in without having faith. Abraham's salvation was based on faith.

Matthew 7:16 If you think JTB was being too harsh, Jesus said the same thing. Jesus says the tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

REPENTANCE – turning around and going the other direction

Not going 90, going 180 degrees, away from your sin towards God.

Anytime you see the word repent, see it as a call to align yourself with God's vision for life and for the world.

The Hebrew word for repent (teshuva) is a compound word. The first half means to feel sorrow, and the second half is to return. So repentance is grieving over your sin and returning to your Father.

"sinner" we often think too small on this. A sinner was anyone outside of God's people. So if you draw a circle around God's people, a sinner is anyone outside that line.

- **Lepers "unclean" you were outside of society – that's a sinner**
- **Possessed by demons and separated from the society**
- **Immoral life**
- **Associating with the wrong people or working with Rome**
- **Someone on the outside because of their ethnicity, not a jew, a gentile, a philistine.**

Any of these things would categorically make you a sinner.

So if we define "repent you sinner" we see this as a big invitation to anyone, no matter what the background, to turn from their dead ways and realign themselves with the heart of the creator of the world!

Released from sin and released into God's presence.

Every time God heals and makes new – it's a sign that all of creation all of life will be released from this and released into a new creation a new heaven a new earth where god reigns and is present with us.

Salvation includes all of this.

V9 Acts 19 – under the baptism of John (repentance) they then turned towards Jesus received the BTS

V11 – this is what to do

Don't live for yourself, be kind and generous. Change the way you are living. He has the notoriously evil people come.

V12 – tax collectors known for being dishonest and stealing.

V14 – Don't intimidate people and don't be corrupt. They were known for just extorting people and shaking people up in order to take profit from citizens. Be content with what you make...that's a message for a lot of people not just soldiers.

What would the message of JTB be to us?

V15-16 – Difference between his baptism and Christian Baptism & the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

JTB's is for repentance, Jesus' is about salvation.

Repentance isn't salvation. Repentance turns towards salvation but you are saved through faith not repentance.

Christian Baptism	John's Baptism
Purpose: Identify with Christ's death & resurrection	Repentance
Into: Christ & His Kingdom	Holiness & Righteous living
Name: Father, Son & Spirit	John

When we are baptized it's a response to what Jesus did,

What is the "fire?" is it the Pentecost fire? Some say yes.

Some say it could be the fire that Jesus will bring in the 2nd coming when he judges the world. I say it could be both.

The context does seem to indicate judgement fire

V17-18 – this seems to be about the judgment of the world in the 2nd coming. “unquenchable” the word “asbestos” Hell is an unstoppable fire.

Psalm 1: like a tree planted near streams

V19 John is arrested. Luke doesn’t give us much detail. Matthew gives us more in chapter 14 (mark 6)

Luke isn’t being chronological here, he just says, JTB preached until he was thrown in prison, but in the storyline this hasn’t happened yet. Jesus is about to get baptized.

V21 Jesus was praying when baptism. This is a model for us in baptism.

1. **Heaven was opened**
2. **The Spirit descended**
3. **A voice came from Heaven**

One of 3 places where the Heavens were opened and God spoke: Every time he said he loved Jesus.

1. **Transfiguration**
2. **Baptism**
3. **John’s gospel, when Jesus spoke and heavens opened.**

Law of First Mention –

1. **1st mention of the word love is Genesis 22** – “take your only son whom you love” the first love was the love of a father to a son. This was a picture of God’s love for Jesus.
2. 1st mention in the NT is in Matthew when the heavens open and God says this is my “beloved son”
3. 1st mention in Mark & Luke is the baptism.
4. In John its John 3:16 – God so loved the world that he gave his son.

The son God loved, was given out of love for us. This is love.

V23 – Genealogy

Genealogies are inspired: Don’t ignore them.

- Genealogies- ~54 genealogies, 25,000 words.

Avg reading it would take about 3 hours for me to read it all. Assuming I pronounce it all correctly and don’t take a sip of water.

- Total Bible is 788,280 (90 hours)

- 3.2% of the Bible is Genealogy.

- 5,142 words (it would take 35 minutes to read)

We often think the bible is a devotional book, “meditation literature” Much of it is, but much of it is informational documents. Genealogies might be boring. But you wouldn’t pick up a cook book, or birth certificate and call it boring because its not like Tolkien. Its informational. It is to help us understand what is happening in the story.

“Jesus came FROM all kinds of people FOR all kinds of people” – Landon Macdonald.

V30 – this is when a priest could serve in the Temple.

Joseph Genesis 41:46

2 Samuel 5:4 – David began his reign

Ezekiel 1:1

All throughout people started their ministry at 30. This is a common pattern. 30-50 is like the ministry years. 50 plus you are to be training the under 30s for ministry.

Titus 3 – teach younger women

“he was thought to be the son” because God was his son.

This is Mary’s genealogy not Joseph’s because it says Joseph here people get confused, but Heli was Mary’s Dad.

V31 Genealogy takes a twist at Nathan and David.

Matthew wrote the genealogy for the Jews so he goes to Abraham. But Luke goes in reverse order and goes all the way back to Adam. But not only did Jesus need to be step heir to the throne, he needed to be bloodline heir to the throne. The Greeks would have wanted to hear that he was in the line of David. He went through Mary’s line to Nathan instead of Solomon. Solomon leads to Joseph and Nathan leads to Mary.

V34 Jews wouldn’t care about anyone before Abraham, but Luke continues.

V37 Methuselah oldest guy in the Bible.

Enoch the guy who never died.

Mahaleel means Lion.

We could spend all day looking at these guys. So many nuances in here. I love genealogies they are so huge.

There is no shame, in skimming or not reading every name. But, always:

1. Ask the question, why is this here?

The main purpose is that Jesus is in line for the throne. Which fulfills the prophecies about Him being the Son of Man and the Son of David.

The Bible is one story that leads to Jesus. Matthew starts with a genealogy. This isn’t usually the way to capture an audience, but for the Jews this is. To show who this guy Jesus is related to is a major statement.

For the Greeks this affirms his special heritage.

How to Study Genealogies:

- **Name meaning**
- **History & Connections to Scripture & Other Characters**
- **Structure (look for narrative in the text)**
- **Pastoral/Devotional – How do their lives relate to ours?**
- **Religious Setting – What did these people believe?**
- **Historical Legacy – How are they remembered?**
- **Pray – What stands out?**