

Luke 3 (Note Matthew 3 and Mark 1 on John and his ministry)

3:1-22 (I am assuming that the genealogy can be skipped.)

Vs. 4-6 – Does God really make the path to Jesus that easy? Evident? Do we? Prepare a short and sweet statement about salvation.

We don't want to get in the way of people seeing Jesus.

Vs. 7-9 – Does John make the path to repentance/salvation easy? Evident? What in our times does this remind you of?

(Matthew notes that this was said to the Pharisees rather than the people in general.)

Don't just do one more external thing that has nothing to do with your heart.

This is a message to "believers" rather than a gay rights parade.

Believers need to be reminded to love and unbelievers need to know that they are loved.

Vs. 10 – Why does the crowd respond this way? How would/do we expect our friends and neighbors to respond to the "rant" in vs. 7-9?

We want people to ask this question! How do we get them to ask it?

We need to be ready with an answer....

Vs. 11-14 – How would you summarize what John is telling the people to do? (Justice and mercy and contentment, love others)

John doesn't say to stop anything, but to be ethical and generous.

This is fruit in keeping with repentance, not another legalistic list.

Vs. 15 – What were these people expecting from the Messiah? Why did they think John might be the Messiah?

John is clear and authoritative. We are looking for such leaders.

Vs. 16-18 – Does this sound like good news? ...if you consider yourself the wheat but not if you consider yourself the chaff!

Without love and relationship (or the possibility of them) this doesn't sound like good news!

Vs. 19 – Are we willing to take on the consequences of holiness?...our lives and words pointing out sin? What does this verse/situation say about the prosperity gospel?

Vs. 21-22 – Matthew notes that John at first didn't think he should baptize Jesus. Who are we in awe of when it comes to holiness?

If John could baptize Jesus, is there anyone who you couldn't baptize?

Everyone needs to submit.

