



Sermon Notes

Title | A New Day to Prepare the Way
Series | So You Can Know For Sure
Text | Luke 3:1-20
By | Bob Kerrey
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Luke 3:1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" 7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." 10 And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" 11 And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." 15 As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, 16 John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." 18 So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. 19 But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, 20 added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Luke 3:4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord . . .'" *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Luke 3:1-2a; 18-20. For John, preparing the way for Jesus brought opposition. As we prepare the way for Jesus today, to what extent should we expect opposition? See John 15:18.

Tuesday:

Read Luke 3:2b-6. According to these verses, what was John's God-given mission? How is this similar and different than our mission as believers today? See Matthew 28:19-20; John 20:21; Acts 1:8. How does Luke 3:6 relate to our mission and John's?

Wednesday:

Read Luke 3:7-9, 17. The good news John preached included some bad news. What is the bad news? What bad news do we all face apart from Christ? What bad news is an essential part of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ today? See Acts 4:12 and Romans 3:20-24.

Thursday:

Read Luke 3:10-14. How does John respond to the repeated question, "What shall we do?" Compare this to the response of Paul and Silas to a similar question in Acts 16:30-31. How should believers respond today to someone who asks, "What must I do to be saved?"

Friday:

Read Luke 3:15-16. How does John view himself in relation to Jesus? How can we adopt this attitude? See 1 Corinthians 3:4-7; 1 Peter 3:15.

Daily Prayer:

Lord, it is a new day. Help me to prepare the way, bringing life to others. Amen.

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