

JOHN THE BAPTIST **IN THE WILDERNESS**

Luke 3:1-17

God uses unlikely people to proclaim His Word.

I. THE MESS (1-2a)

A. POLITICALLY CHAOTIC

1. Tiberius Caesar was Emperor
2. Pontus Pilate was Governor of Judea
3. Tetrarchs ruled in Israel
 - a. Herod Antipas
 - b. Philip the brother of Herod
 - c. Lysanias

B. RELIGIOUSLY CORRUPT

1. Annas' Priesthood
2. Caiaphas' Priesthood

II. A MESSENGER (2b-3)

A. RECIPIENT (2b)

1. The Word of God came to him
2. A genuine prophet
 - a. Prepared - Luke 1:76-79
 - b. Peculiar - Luke 1:80

B. REPORTER (3)

- He came preaching > Heralding as God's spokesman

III. HIS MESSAGE (3-17)

A. PREPARATION WAS NEEDED (3-7)

1. The Condition: Forgiveness of sin via repentance
2. The Confession: I'm not good enough
3. The Context: Fulfilling Isaiah's prediction (4-6) > See Isaiah 40:3-5

Over please >

B. CAUTION IS NEEDED (7-9)

1. Condition (7a) > Not all comers were qualified
2. Question (7b) > Who warned you?
3. Instruction (8) > God is not impressed with their heritage
4. Situation (9) > Judgment is immanent

C. UNDERSTANDING IS NEEDED

1. About the fruit of repentance (10-14)
 - a. Their questions (10)
 - b. The answers (11-14)
 - 1) Realistically: People at work should be able to see the difference
 - 2) Specifically: Be generous (11); Be fair (12-13); Be peaceable (14)
2. About the coming Messiah (15-17)
 - a. The people's excitement (15)
 - b. The prophet's identification (16a)
 - c. The prophet's explanation (16b-17)

CONCLUSION:

John the Baptist was a burly man but a brave messenger

- He wasn't caught up in the political unrest
- He was protected from and unaffected by the popular culture

His sole ambition was to proclaim Christ ... and he did so faithfully

Might God give us the boldness of the Baptist!