

LUKE 3:1-14 *Repentance and baptism*

INTRODUCTION

After 460 years of silence, God was once again speaking to His people. The ministry that John was born for had begun. Like the prophets in the Old Testament, he was calling people to repentance- to turn away from doing wrong things and relying on themselves, and turn to God, following and trusting Him. Just as God promised in Isaiah 40, John was getting people ready to “see the salvation of God” in the person of Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

What does “repentance” mean? *Repentance means to turn away from thinking, saying, and doing wrong things and relying on oneself, and turning to God and trusting Him.*

EXPLANATION

- Why does Luke mention all those different people in verses 1 and 2? *To show that what he was saying about John and Jesus really happened- that it wasn't a made-up story.*
- What does it mean that God's word came to John in the wilderness? *“It means that God spoke directly to John to tell him to start his ministry.*
- What did John tell people to do? *He told them to repent.*
- What did John mean when he told them to “bear fruits in keeping with repentance” (v.8)? *The people are to be truly sorry for their sins, as opposed to just pretending. Their sincerity is demonstrated by getting baptized, both of which showed that they were ready to believe in Jesus and turn from sin.*
- Who are the “trees” that don't grow good fruit (v.9)? *People who aren't really sorry for their sins and who won't believe in Jesus.*
- What question did people keep on asking John? *“What shall we do?”*

APPLICATION

John the Baptizer's ministry was to get people ready for Jesus, who would come and die on a cross to save people from God's punishment for their sins. But Jesus only comes for those who know they have sinned- thought and said and done wrong things- are truly sorry. Talk about the difference between being truly sorry for sins, and just being sad for getting caught doing something wrong. What does the “fruit of repentance” look like for each family member? Are you modeling repentance for your spouse? Your Children?

Memory VERSE

Luke 3:3 – “And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” (ESV)