



## **SERMON NOTES**

February 7, 2010

Scripture: Luke 3:1-14 (NAS)

Topic: "The Forerunner to Christ"

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- 1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,
- 2 in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.
- 3 And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching 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, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.
- 5 'EVERY RAVINE WILL BE FILLED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL WILL BE BROUGHT LOW; THE CROOKED WILL BECOME STRAIGHT, AND THE ROUGH ROADS SMOOTH;
- 6 AND ALL FLESH WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD.'" So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- 8 "Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.
- 9 "Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."
- 10 And the crowds were questioning him, saying, "Then what shall we do?"
- 11 And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."
- 12 And some tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"
- 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to."
- 14 Some soldiers were questioning him, saying, "And what about us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages."

### **I. WHY THE LONG LIST OF LEADERS?**

- A. They Did Not Have A Standardized Method Of Dating
- B. Identification Of Leaders Was A Common Means Of Dating
- C. The Time Marked The Beginning Of John's Ministry

### **II. WHO WAS JOHN?**

- A. He Was Prominent In All Four Gospels
- B. A Man Of Many Distinctions (unusual)
- C. His Preaching Was Powerful And To Many People *Mark 1:4,5*
- D. He Was A Man Of Prayer *Luke 11:1*
- E. He Was Also A Man Of Humility *Mark 1:7; John 3:30*

### **III. WHAT WAS JOHN'S MESSAGE?**

- A. Not A Popular Message
- B. Message Of Repentance

### **IV. WHAT IS REPENTANCE?**

- A. Identification Of Sin By The Word Of God *Psalms 51:4*
- B. A God-Given Sense Of Guilt For Sin *Psalms 51:9*
- C. A Plea For God's Mercy *Psalms 51:7*
- D. A Change Of Heart And Actions *Psalms 51:10*

### **V. WHAT EXAMPLE OF CHANGE ARE WE GIVEN?**

- A. Love Your Neighbor As Yourself
- B. Tax Collector—Do Not Overcharge
- C. Soldier—Do Not Misuse Your Authority