

## Sermon #5: It Starts with Us

02/14/21

### BREAKING THE ICE

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

### UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

*Read the Passage (Luke 3:1-20)*

1. How does Luke's careful inclusion of historical & political events within his Gospel provide an inherent apologetic for the truth of what he writes?
2. After reading this list of people in places of power in contrast to whom God chooses to send His message, what can you learn about whom God uses?
3. How does verse 3 describe the overall message that God gave John to proclaim?
4. What does this description teach us about the character of God?
5. 400 years of silence from God (& the prophets) precede John's coming as the final OT prophet. This was a time of great disobedience by Israel. Read Malachi 3:1-7 to see some of the final words God said to Israel before John arrived. How do these words describe how God felt about Israel's long-standing disobedience?
6. How do verses 4-6 (quoted from Isaiah 40) reveal that John's arrival is consistent with God's predicted plan for His people?
7. Now that you understand the spiritual and historical context for John's message, why shouldn't it be that surprising that it comes across pretty strong and confrontational (in vs 7-9)?
8. How would you summarize the three sets of actions (vs 11-14) John called people to do to "bear fruit" consistent with repentance?
9. Would these characterize the most important things we would call people toward after repentance in today's church? Why or why not?
10. In verses 15-16, how does John's view of himself and of Jesus reveal why he was so sold out to sharing God's truth and not just pleasing people?
11. How does verse 17 illustrate how the baptism that Jesus brings (of the Holy Spirit and fire) will be experienced by both those who trust in Him and those who don't?

### SEEING JESUS CHRIST

*Jesus would later say that "among those born of women, no one is greater than John." (Lk 7:28). Yet John says in our passage that he is not even worth of untying the sandals of Jesus. John, a sinner himself, would eventually be beheaded for his testimony of Jesus. However, Jesus, sinless and perfect, would be mocked, scorned, beaten and crucified by men and then judged by the wrath of His Heavenly Father for our sins. The wrath of God against sin must always be held up against the infinite mercy and grace He offers to those who repent and believe in Him.*

- *How does Jesus' infinite worth in John's eyes move you to offer your life more fully to Him?*

### **MAKING IT MATTER**

1. How would you characterize the message of today's church to the world?
2. How might Jesus' message to His own church be different than what He is saying to the world?
3. If today's church is a "forerunner" to the second coming of Christ, what should our message be to the world and how should our life bear fruit that is consistent

### **PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER**

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.