

## Luke 3:1-20

25 October 2020

ICE BREAKER: Other than Jesus, who is your favorite person in the Bible?

### LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 7-16) All Israel—the rich, the powerful, and the poor—traveled to the desert to hear **John the Baptist** speak. John was the most **famous** person, and most **powerful** and **convicting** voice in Israel. Listen to Jesus' evaluation of John's life: "Among those born of women there has **not** risen **anyone greater** than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11).

John preached God's coming judgment of sin, calling all to repent. He did not hesitate speaking God's truth to power, whether they be rich (the tax collectors) or powerful (Roman soldiers). Moreover, despite great fame and respect, John never pointed to himself, but always to Jesus.

1. Looking at this passage, what do you **admire** about **John the Baptist**?

(Read verses 16-17) John declared he **baptized** with **water**, while Jesus would baptize with "the **Holy Spirit** and **fire**". Verse 3 tells us John's baptism was a "baptism of **repentance**."

Jesus promised all who believed on Him and were baptized in His name would have this happen to them—the **Holy Spirit** would come into their hearts to give them **power** to live a Christian and holy life. **Fire** gives the imagery of power, judgment and separation, which occurs when one is baptized as a Christian.

2. How have you seen the **difference** between being only **repentant** versus being **filled with the Holy Spirit**?

(Read verse 17-18) John described a **coming judgment** where the **wheat**, symbolizing the **righteous**, would be separated from the **chaff**, symbolizing the **unrighteous**. John described this judgment as associated with Jesus.

The judgment was fiery, fierce, and final. Throughout both John's and Jesus' preaching ministry, they always foretold of a final judgment. And always, the judgment was **severe** and **final**, where there was not a happy ending for everyone. Yet, this pronouncement of awful judgment was part of how John 'preached the **good news** to them'!

3. How do you share the **Gospel** as **Good News** with the warning of a **awful** and **final judgment**?

(Read verses 19-20) John the Baptist did **not** just have **personal moral values** he held **privately**. He believed these were standards to which God held **all societies accountable**. Even in the areas of politics, John spoke out. While everyone else seemed to remain **silent** about Herod's adultery and wickedness, John could not remain silent.

Some Christians believe that the church should stay out of politics. John the Baptist's life and ministry **rejected** that idea. For John, moral values must be practiced in both our **private** and **public** lives, for **all of life is sacred**.

4. What is the **danger** of remaining **silent** about **Biblical values** in public sectors like **work, school, and politics**?

Cut along Dotted Line & use Prayer Requests below as Bible Book Marker

---

### PRAYER GROUP TIME

(List persons you commit to witnessing to or inviting to Community Service next week.)

---

---

---