

+Bible Study Luke Series: Luke 3:15-22

- 1.** Part of John's preparation for the coming of Christ was calling people to repent (change a behaviour that isn't in line with God's desire for a person's life). How might people generally deal with things they know are wrong, but still like doing?
- 2.** Read Luke 3:15-20. John's call for people to respond to the good news suggests that not everyone will welcome it. How is the section concerning Herod (vv 19-20) a good example of opposition to the good news?

Herod is an example of how a person might be confronted with a behaviour, not in line with the Lord's will for his created people, yet through rebellion and desire for that behaviour ignore the message and seek to silence the messenger.

- 3.** People were coming to John to be baptised with water. What idea might people have had about baptism from Jewish tradition? See Ex 19:10-14; Lev 16:3-5, Num 31:21-24.

These passages talk about the need to be cleansed after being exposed to sin, to make a person able to meet again with God (priests), or his people. So people would have seen the use of water symbolising the removal of guilt or particular sin.

- 4.** How does the baptism Christ will bring (v16) relate to your answer in question 3? See Ezek 36:24-27

Christ in a new, permanent and internal way (with his sacrificial death, and baptism with the Holy Spirit), will cleanse a person of their sin and bring them into the presence of God.

- 5.** Read Luke 3:21-22. Why would Jesus, the sinless one, need to, or desire to be baptised? (This seems to be John's question too in Matt 3:14). In your answer look at Matt 3:14-15.

As the messiah he requires to identify people he came to deliver from sin. His baptism is to fulfil all righteousness (Mat 3:15) in this regard. It also recognises John's role as his God ordained forerunner.

- 6.** The 'voice from heaven' in verse 22, is from God the Father. What is significant about this event?

God validates and approves Jesus as the son of God and the mission he is about to undertake. Here is the promised one. Jesus is the one the Lord sees fit to put his Spirit on (isa 42:1). Speaks also of the unique relationship between God the father and Jesus, God the son.

- 7.** How might a true understanding of who Christ is, and what it means to follow him, change the way a person might answer question 1?

Repentance is the right response according to who Christ is, not according to what I want.

Spend some time praying together about what you have learnt about God.