



Preparing for Jesus

Luke 3:1-14

Sermon Study Notes

"There is no charity in flattering unconverted people by abstaining from any mention of their vices or in applying smooth epithets to damnable sins." - J.C. Ryle

Do you care enough to confront?

I. John's message calls us to repent.

You can't be forgiven of sin if you don't believe you have sinned and need forgiveness.

We could repent until the cows come home, and apart from the saving work of Jesus Christ it would not forgive our sins.

Repentance is necessary for forgiveness because we need to recognize our need for forgiveness before we are in a position of receiving forgiveness and trusting in the One who has purchased our forgiveness.

- A. What John preached: (**Takeaway:** We must repent and be baptized.)
 - 1. An outward testimony. "*A baptism*"
 - 2. An inward transformation. "*of repentance*"
 - 3. A heavenly transaction. "*for the forgiveness of sins*"
- B. Where John preached: (**Takeaway:** We must obey regardless of convenience or cost.)
 - 1. A place of inconvenience.
 - 2. A place of isolation.
 - 3. A place of inspiration.
 - 4. A place of introspection.
- C. Why John preached: (**Takeaway:** We must believe because God's Word is true.)
 - 1. Because of past prophecy.
 - 2. Because of future promises.

II. John's message contains certain requirements.

- A. True repentance requires submissiveness. Too often we'd rather be right than forgiven. We'd rather be vindicated than forgive.
- B. True repentance results in substance. Don't say you're a child of Abraham; show you're a child of Abraham.

Takeaway: We must show repentance in action and attitude.

III. John's message commands a response.

- A. An honest inquiry.
- B. A direct instruction.

Takeaway: We must ask what we must do.

It's precisely at the point where you've been wrong the most that there's the greatest potential for the display of the grace of God in the gospel.

Wouldn't it be great if people said of us, "You know, they're really hard on themselves... but after all, they're Christians."?