

ULC Sermon Study Resource
The Gospel According to Luke // Jesus Starts
Pastor Marcus Lane
April 25th, 2021

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Do you have any plans to celebrate the end of the semester or school year?

Reading: Luke 3:1-22

Outline:

- I. Divine Timing (Luke 3:1-3; 7-9)
 - a. Luke roots the ministry of John the Baptist in two realities: in a specific moment in history (v.1-2), and in the authority of God. There's also an urgency: now is the time to repent!
 - b. God enters into our time and fills our lives with purpose and urgency through the Gospel.
Q: Why do you think all the historical details make it into the Word of God?
- II. Divine Fruit (Luke 3:10-14; 4-6)
 - a. John the Baptist calls people to repent, deal honestly, and live generously.
 - b. Encountering the salvation of God straightens crooked, dishonest paths with integrity, confronts our self-exaltation with humility, and interrupts and re-orders our lives.
 - c. The Gospel is not merely a heavenly future, but is God filling our lives now and always!
Q: Why do the people ask what they should do after repenting?
- III. Diving Authority (Luke 3:15-22)
 - a. John the Baptist acknowledges that his ministry is rooted in Jesus' divine authority.
 - b. In Jesus' baptism, life, death, and resurrection, we see that He *is* our salvation!
Q: Why doesn't Herod's imprisonment of John circumvent God's authority?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How is the Gospel incomplete when removed from its historical reality? Its spiritual reality?
- 2) How can we maintain this sense of urgency impressed on us by the Scriptures that *now* is the time to have our lives transformed by salvation and shaped by the Good News?
- 3) How can we seek to turn from sin by the power of the Holy Spirit when confessing/repenting?
- 4) How can we acknowledge and trust in God's authority in the midst of our broken world?
- 5) How can you extend the mercy of Jesus to those around you this week?

Suggestions for further study:

- Esther 4:1-17 **Q: Why does Mordecai impress upon Esther the urgency of going before the king to seek deliverance for her people and live "for such a time as this"?**
- Isaiah 40:1-5 **Q: How does John the Baptist's ministry fulfill Isaiah's prophecy?**
- Galatians 4:4-5 **Q: How do we understand Christ's coming as rooted in divine timing?**

Closing Prayer: "Gracious God, Jesus has come, and he has come for us. Lord, we ask that you would work in us by the power of the Spirit to take hold of the marvelous gift of the Gospel. May we receive and believe this Good News, and may it upend our lives and invite us into a different reality. God, we ask that you would give us boldness, strength, and confidence to go as your people in the power of the Holy Spirit to extend your forgiveness and salvation to a world in need. God, work this in us by your strength, and by the mighty name of Jesus. Amen."