

Wednesday June 3rd

His Arrival - Luke 2-3

Opening

Where have you visited where you felt really welcomed and why? Is there anything you try to do so others will feel welcome when they visit you?

Digging Deeper

Message Review: In Luke 2-3 we read about the coming of Jesus, from His birth to His baptism. Chapter 3, especially, focuses on the ministry of John the Baptist and how God used John to prepare Israel for Jesus' arrival. For discussion, our focus will be on John's message and methods.

1. Read Luke 3:3-4. We said on Sunday that the idea behind the phrase "make His paths straight" is to clear a path or to remove obstacles and it's a picture of John's message of repentance. Do you think this call to clear a path (or to repent) is an invitation, a command, or a warning? Explain.
2. Who is responsible for preaching the message of repentance today, and how should it be delivered? What are some New Testament examples of people preaching repentance?
3. Read Luke 3:8. Here John tells his listeners to "bear fruits worthy of repentance" which he later explains as changing their behavior to obey God's Word. But in this verse, what does he warn his listeners against doing instead of repenting?
4. What reasons might people today give for thinking they don't need to repent? How would you answer them?
5. We often think of repentance as confession, but John emphasizes the importance of taking action in our repentance. In verse 10 we read that the people asked John what specific actions they should take, and then in verses 11 to 14 John replies with examples. Look at each example and put it into a modern context. What sin is John talking about and how do we really repent of them?

Prayer

1. What is something from this passage that we can pray for?
2. Pray for personal needs.