



REIGNITING YOUR PASSION FOR CHRIST

A Study of the Gospel of Luke

THE PROPHET WHO LOST HIS HEAD OVER JESUS LUKE 3:1-20

INTRODUCTION: What qualities does God value most in our lives? What kind of people does God choose to honor? Both of those questions are clearly answered as we look at one of the most significant – yet overlooked – individuals in the New Testament.

- I. John's Ministry (Luke 3:1-6)
 - A. His **Times** (Luke 3:1-2)

Luke 3:1-2 “¹Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Itureaea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, ²in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.”

- B. His **Purpose** (Luke 3:3-6)

Luke 3:3 “And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins;”

Acts 19:1-5 “¹And it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples, ²and he said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ And they said to him, ‘No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’ ³And he said, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ And they said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’ ⁴And Paul said, ‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’ ⁵And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Luke 3:4 “as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.’”

II. John's Message (Luke 3:7-17)

A. **Confrontation** (Luke 3:7-10)

Luke 3:7 "He therefore began saying to the multitudes who were going out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?'"

Matthew 3:7 "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?'"

Luke 3:9 "And also the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Luke 3:10 "And the multitudes were questioning him, saying, 'Then what shall we do?'"

B. **Exhortation** (Luke 3:11-14)

Luke 3:11 "And he would answer and say to them, 'Let the man who has two tunics share with him who has none; and let him who has food do likewise.'"

Luke 3:13 "And he said to them, 'Collect no more than what you have been ordered to.'"

Luke 3:14 "And some soldiers were questioning him, saying, 'And what about us, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages.'"

C. **Salvation** (Luke 3:15-17)

Luke 3:16 "John answered and said to them all, 'As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'"

Luke 3:17 "And His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

III. John's Martyrdom (Luke 3:18-20)

Luke 3:19 "But when Herod the tetrarch was reproved by him on account of Herodias, his brother's wife, and on account of all the wicked things which Herod had done,"

IV. Timeless Truths From John's Life

- A. God Honors Those Who Are Willing to **Share the Truth**, Regardless of the **Consequences**.

- B. God Honors Those Who **Point** People to **His Son**.

Conclusion: