

## Luke 3:3-20 Proclaiming Good News: Dealing with Sin

### The good news of God's salvation deals honestly with sin.

- ✓ Required Motives: the glory of God and love for God and others
- ✓ Required Attitude: Humility
- ✓ Required Resources: The Bible and Prayer

#### 1) The gospel deals with personal sin.

- a) Sins that are common to humanity (3:10-11)
  - i) Selfishness, Greed (every sin mentioned by John in verses 10-14 has to do with money/possessions)—“share”
  - ii) Sensuality (v. 19)
  - iii) Speech
  - iv) Self-conceit (Pride)
- b) Sins that are common to certain vocations (3:12-14)
  - i) Tax collectors—stealing
    - (1) business—misappropriation of funds
    - (2) managers—mismanagement of resources
    - (3) employees—laziness, tardiness, “sick” days
  - ii) Soldiers—abuse of authority; discontent (most soldiers were also abused with regard to their pay)
    - (1) officers/employers—unjust demands/pay
    - (2) law enforcement—personal vengeance/grudges
    - (3) husbands/parents—harshness and selfish demands
    - (4) children—disrespect and rebelliousness
- c) Sins that are public knowledge (3:19)
  - i) Herod—took his brother's wife and committed many evils
  - ii) Public figures' scandalous behavior warrants rebuke from the Church—especially those who claim to be Christians.

#### 2) The gospel defines sin as rebellion against God (3:4, 20).

- a) “Prepare the way of the Lord”—The Great King coming to a rebellious client kingdom
- b) “[Herod] locked up John in prison”—Luke 20:9-10
- c) The gravity of sin is proportionate to the greatness of God.

#### 3) The gospel calls for repentance from sin (3:3, 8, 10-14, 19).

- a) Negatively: turn from sin
  - i) “baptism of repentance” (3:3)
  - ii) “reproved by him for Herodias . . . and for all the evil things that Herod had done” (3:19)
- b) Positively: practice righteousness
  - i) “bear fruits in keeping with repentance” (3:8)
  - ii) “What then shall we do? . . . share . . . collect no more than you are authorized to do . . . be content with your wages.” (10-14)

#### 4) The gospel offers forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ (3:3, 15-17).

- a) “for the forgiveness of sins” (3:3)
- b) “I baptize you with water, but he . . . will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (3:16)—John points away from himself to Jesus Christ
- c) “to gather the wheat into His barn” (3:17)
- d) The goal of forgiveness is reconciliation with God for His glory.
  - i) Do you want to prepare the way for the Lord in your life?
  - ii) Do you want to see the salvation of God in your life?
  - iii) Do you want to see God glorified in all the earth?