

Prepare For the Lord (Luke 3)

I. The Ministry of John the Baptist (3:1-6)

A. During Times of Unrighteousness (1-2a)

1. During Times of Political Oppression (1)
2. During Times of Religious Corruption (2a)

B. John Came Preparing The Lord's Way (2b-6)

1. Prepare Yourselves For His Judgment(2b-5)

a. Repent For the Forgiveness of Sins (2b-3)

- Not Ancestry (Jews)
- Not Legalism (Pharisees)

b. Jewish Baptism?

- Jews Baptized Gentiles into Judaism
- Why would John Be Baptizing Jews?
- Baptized into Relationship with God?

2. Prepare Yourselves For His Coming (4-5)

a. All Obstacles Must Be Removed (5)

- Picture of Oriental Emissary
- Obstacle of Heart Removed
- Then Lord Can Deal With It

C. Salvation is Coming (6)

1. When Man's Pride is Removed
2. All Will See God's Salvation
3. You Must Repent

II. The Fruit of Preparation (3:7-14)

A. Wrath Awaits The Fruitless (7-9)

1. Only a Proven Repentance Will Stand (7-8)

- a. Wrath is Coming (7)
- b. Bear Fruit Keeping with Repentance (8a)
- c. Status Alone Cannot Save You (8b)
 - no evidence, no salvation

2. Judgment is coming For the Fruitless (9)

- a. The axe is at the tree
- b. The fruitless are thrown into the fire

B. True Repentance Produces Fruit (10-14)

1. The Repentant Desire Change (10)

- a. "What shall we do?"

2. The Fruit of Repentance (examples)(11-14)

a. Loving One's Neighbor (11)

- Giving the Tunic
- Giving food

b. Honesty in All Dealings (12-13)

- Publicans were lowly traitors
- Not allowed to give alms
- Didn't tell them to quit – just be honest

- c. Live For God in Whatever Station (14)
 - Soldiers (Herod's or Romans)
 - Don't have to quit
 - Just be Holy where you are