



Week 1

Sermon Series: Light Dawns Darkness Trembles

Sermon Title: Give Us Repentant Hearts Pt 1

Sermon Text: Luke 3:1-9

Group Week of: May 21, 2023

Sermon Date: May 28, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Isaiah Prophecy – Isaiah 40:1-11
Day 2	Brood of Vipers – Matthew 12:22-37
Day 3	The Holy Spirit – John 16:1-15
Day 4	Bearing Fruit – John 15:1-17
Day 5	Children of Abraham – Romans 2:17-29

The Text: Luke 3:4-9

⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.”

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson (lessons) that you see God teaching through Luke in this passage?
- 2) What do the geographical reorganizations mentioned in verses 4-5 represent?
- 3) Why would anyone say, “we have Abraham as our father”?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Repentance is deeply important for the believer. When you think of repentance, please attempt a definition according to the following categories.
 - i. An Emotion or Feeling

 - ii. An Attitude of the Heart

 - iii. A Set of Actions or Behaviors

- 2) For repentance to take place, it is necessary for us to have some knowledge that what we've done is wrong. When John the Baptist addresses this with the crowds, he says to them "you brood of vipers, who warned you to flee the coming judgement?" What warnings has God brought you that really opened your eyes to your sin and lead to repentance?

- 3) Knowledge of our wrongdoing produces different responses in us depending on many factors. At times, this leads to a fear of judgement from God or others, shame, or a strong desire to make things right. Which of these three (or others) do you typically feel in response to recognizing that you've truly done something wrong? Why?

- 4) John exhorts the crowds to "produce fruit in keeping with repentance." Many of us have, at one point or another, confessed our sin and repented and done our best to turn and walk a different path, only to once again find ourselves engaged in the same sins we faced before. Does this mean we lack the fruit of repentance that John is talking about? How should we as Christians understand repentance and then subsequent habitual sin?

- 5) When faced with our sin, it can be tempting to look for security in the wrong place. For the Israelites, it was their pedigree; they were descendants of Abraham, children of the covenant, and they used this to excuse sinful behavior. Christians sometimes say "once saved, always saved" to excuse their sinful behavior. How would you correct someone who is thinking this way?

- 6) John 16:8 says that the Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin. If you are struggling to experience or feel repentant about your sin, meditate and pray for God to fulfill this verse in your life. Whatever He shows you, repent of. If you're able to, share that with your group, and talk through what God did to reveal and then wash away your sin.