

INTRODUCTION

- * We have been studying the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke.
- * In the first message, we discussed Luke's purpose in writing this Gospel account - "That you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed."
- * We then considered "Where" Luke chose to begin this account ... at the angelic proclamation to Zacharias regarding the birth of John. Luke believed that it was critical for the believer to understand the miraculous nature of John's birth and ministry. Indeed, later when Jesus was questioned by the Scribes regarding His authority, He would point them back to the ministry and testimony of John.
- * Today, we consider the Preparatory Ministry of John as the Forerunner of the Messiah.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE P _____ OF HIS MINISTRY (v. 1-2)****II. THE P _____ OF HIS MINISTRY (v. 3a)****III. THE P _____ OF HIS MINISTRY (v. 4-6; cf. Isaiah 40:3-5)**

A. The W _____ of YHWH would be P _____ (cf. John 1:6-8, 23-27)

B. The S _____ of YHWH would be R _____ (cf. John 1:14, 35-36)

IV. THE P _____ OF HIS MINISTRY (v. 3b, 7-18)**A. The C _____ to Repentance (v. 3b, 7-14)**

1. THE I _____ S _____ OF ACCEPTANCE WAS A P _____ TESTIMONY (cf. Matt 28:19-20)

2. THE E _____ P _____ OF ACCEPTANCE WAS A P _____ TESTIMONY

a. Be Merciful (v. 10-11)

b. Be Honest (v. 12-13)

c. Be Kind (v. 14)

B. The C _____ of Messiah (v. 15-18; John 1:19-23)

1. HIS W _____

2. HIS B _____

3. HIS J _____

VI. THE P _____ OF HIS MINISTRY (v. 19-20)**INTROSPECTION**

- * Can you remember a time when you cognitively changed the paradigm of your thinking?
- * Have you submitted to the initial sign of acceptance?
- * Do the fruits of your life - your personal testimony - reflect one who is living a life of submission to YHWH?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * John referred to Jesus ministry with an eye toward judgment (v. 9,16-17). What place does that, or should that, have in our evangelistic practices?