



9:00 Live Sunday School at FBJ

“What are we to do”? “Then cometh Jesus” Luke 3:10-18; 23a; Matthew 3:13-17

I. Where we left JTB

A. JTB calls for us to repent - *metanoeo* - Change your mind – Where else is the work used?

1. John the Baptist’s message
2. Mark 1:14-15 – Jesus’ 1st proclaiming gospel
3. Mark 6:7-13 – 1st apostles’ instructions
4. Luke 24:44-47 – 1st apostles’ message after resurrection
5. Acts 2:37-41 – 1st word of exhortation to the church
6. Acts 26:19-20 – 1st word of Paul’s ministry

II. Luke 3:10-14

A. The responses came from “bear fruits or the axe is coming”

B. Three “what shall we do’s”:

1. v.10 - Crowds: help the poor
2. v.11 - Tax/toll collectors: don’t cheat
3. v.14 - Soldiers: Quit extorting and threatening; Be happy with your pay
 - a. These soldiers were likely Jews hired by the tax collectors

III. Luke 3:15-17

A. v.15 - JTB knew who he was and who he wasn’t - How did he know that?

Luke 1:15: “...*he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*”

B. v.16 - water vs. the Holy Spirit and fire

- In Acts, Luke never mentions fire with the Holy Spirit – why?
- Jesus will bring everlasting life AND judgement

C. v.17 – Winnowing (the Good News) will either be good, stored wheat or the burning chaff in the judgement

IV. Matthew 3:13-15

A. v.13 - What do you reckon He told Mary? - “Bethany beyond the Jordan” wasn’t on the way to anywhere from Galilee

B. v.14 - I don’t think they needed an introduction

C. v.15 - What is the “fulfilment of all righteousness”?

1. It’s completing all the things that must be done for obedience
2. JTB’s ministry was at its climax – it’s why he was born
3. The Good News was literally here and salvation was starting

V. Matthew 3:16-17 - God was giving two “stamps of approval:

A. The Holy Spirit descending - “like a dove” - something visible

B. A voice from heaven - No “like a anything” – audible

C. The voice from heaven is a merging of two OT Messianic passages

1. Psalm 2
2. 1st Song of the Suffering Servant from Isaiah 42:1

D. Why was Jesus Baptized?

1. God to show Jesus’ identity
2. God to show Jesus’ authority
3. To show Jesus’ human anointing - He was already God but human side needed it
4. Fulfill Scripture – Isaiah 61:1

VI. Luke 3:28a - *Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age*

VII. Was JTB an Essene?

A. Three Primary Sects: Sadducees, Pharisees and Essenes

B. Essenes – Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls

C. Similarities

1. Geographically Close
2. Came from Levitical Priesthood

3. Baptized for purification – Like Mary after birth in Temple
4. Voices in Wilderness

D. Differences

1. Repent and bear fruit (vv.7-9) - Not enough to say sorry - Not enough to rely on heritage/kinfolk
2. He was inclusive not exclusive (vv. 10-14)
 - a. Crowds – do unto others
 - b. Tax collectors – be fair
 - c. Soldiers – don't abuse power
3. Focus is Jesus – the good news - vv.16-17
4. Holy Spirit makes community not hiding in the wilderness - 1st Corinthians 12:12-13

VIII. My Take Aways

- The “Good News” of fire and repentance is forgiveness is possible
- “Jesus arrived”
- Our baptism was not meant for us to be a bunch of Essenes

Questions? Comments? Thoughts?
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