

## JOHN PREPARES THE WAY FOR THE MESSIAH Pt. 2

(Luke 3:1-17)

### I. THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (3:1-20)

#### A. The PERIOD and LOCATION of John's ministry (3:1-3)

#### B. The PROPHETIC PURPOSE of John's ministry (3:4-6)

#### C. The PREACHING of John's Ministry (3:7-17)

1. John opened with what appeared to be a rather insensitive \_\_\_\_\_ to his audience by calling them a "*brood of vipers.*" (v. 7)

\* What did John intend to communicate with his figurative speech?

2. After these Jews had repented they needed to then "*bear fruits worthy of repentance;*" \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved, but to demonstrate the \_\_\_\_\_ of their salvation. (v. 8a, cf., Acts 26:19-20; James 2:14-18; 2 Peter 1:2-11)

\* What objection did John anticipate from the religious leaders? (v. 8b)

3. The Lord would \_\_\_\_\_ Israel as a fruitless tree, unless the Jews \_\_\_\_\_ and started bearing "the fruits of repentance." (v. 9, cf. 6:43-45; 13:6-9; Isa. 5:1-7; 10:33-34; 66:24; Mal. 4:1)

4. The people were \_\_\_\_\_ and they kept on asking John (*imperfect tense*), "*what shall we do?*" or what \_\_\_\_\_ we do? (v. 10)

5. To those who were sincere in his audience, John recommended \_\_\_\_\_ their possessions with those in need. (v. 11, cf. Gal. 5:22-23; James 2:14-26)

6. Two specific occupations that were scorned by your average citizen felt the weight of guilt and came to John for spiritual guidance...

**a. The “*tax collectors*”**

- 1) They were often chosen from the “\_\_\_\_\_” of the people, and were so notorious for their \_\_\_\_\_ that they were habitually included in the same category with harlots and sinners.
  
- 2) John did not suggest overthrowing the system, but instead he encouraged personal \_\_\_\_\_ and freedom from \_\_\_\_\_ which would eliminate the abuses. (vv. 12-13)

**b. The “*soldiers*”**

- 1) Because soldiers’ wages were low, there was always the \_\_\_\_\_ to use one’s position especially during police inspection to bodily \_\_\_\_\_ people for money.
  
- 2) John did not condemn the soldiers’ vocation, but rather he told them to \_\_\_\_\_ “*intimidate anyone,*” but to be \_\_\_\_\_ with their wages. (v. 14)

\* Is being content with one’s wages still a problem today?

7. The ultimate objective of John’s preaching was not to point people to himself, but to faith in \_\_\_\_\_ . (vv. 15-17)

\* How many baptisms are mentioned in v. 16?

\* How will the *saved* and the *unsaved* be treated differently at Christ’s Second Advent? (v. 17)

\* What can you personally apply from this passage?