

Apprenticing Jesus

|| A Series Through the Gospel of Luke

The Revolution of Jesus

Sermon Synopsis: John the Baptist comes preaching about a baptism that is accompanied by real change in the person. But John's best advice at this point is to "try harder"—something that hasn't worked. But John doesn't just leave them with good advice, but good news: Someone is coming who will not just give us a better way to live, but the power to live in such a way.

Themes: apprenticeship, Holy Spirit, the kingdom

Luke 3:1-22 (ESV)

defeated–depleted–deflated?

When

Who¹

A longing for change

A Messenger

A message (**4-5**)

The twist

Change must start with us

We will be held accountable for what we did with our lives – The garage won't save you (8a)

A picture Western Christians don't like (**6, 9, 17**) → **Larry Nassar**

God = just/righteous. Therefore, his people should desire both

Why Herod is a sham²

Those who want the power associated with the Kingdom, must also want the repentance

People: what do we do??

John's advice

The problem

Little Fires Everywhere (Celeste Ng)³

Rules won't enable you to experience the God-kind of life—desire, power, joy, or fulfillment.

They merely point you towards where you might find it

Galatians 3:21, 24 (NLT)

if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law...the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.

John's gospel: Someone is coming

He will make greater demands on them than the Law requires → (SOTM)

...but will also give them the desire and power to live fully in the flow of that God-kind of life⁴

Good intentions vs transformation

→ replace duty with delight

The baptism of the Spirit

Ezekiel 32:26-28 (NIV)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

Some trying to baptize good works with good intentions
God wants to baptize heart in transformation. Duty/delight

Romans 8:1-11!

It is not possible to live in the flow of God's kingdom apart from his power⁵

¹ Joel B. Green describes each of these characters as uniquely part of a corrupt system, which is what Luke is attempting to paint: this is a dark time indeed, and a ripe context in which a Messiah might step. *The Gospel of Luke*. (NICNT; Eerdmans, 1997). 168-169. Also Leon Morris. *Luke*. (TNTC; IVP Academic, 1988). 110-111; N.T. Wright. *Luke For Everyone*. (Westminster John Knox Press, 2004). 32

² Many of the great kings of Israel built or restored the temple. Herod was working to rebuild the Temple, which was itself a way of claiming royal status—was trying to inherit his father's title, "king of the Jews." Here he would posture himself as a kind of messianic leader to this religious constituency, but inwardly was deficient of anything that could be properly categorized as Godlike in character. N.T. Wright. *Luke For Everyone*. (Westminster John Knox Press, 2004). 36

³ Celeste Ng. *Little Fires Everywhere*. New York: Penguin Press, 2017

⁴ Michael Card: "John is making ready for the upheaval, for the world to be turned upside down. But he is not the One who will overturn it. So for now, when the people ask him what they should do in response to his message, he gives the old-world answers. Do good, try harder, be generous stop cheating: all are difficult but doable. The One who is the new world will make impossible demands on his followers, like loving their enemies and forgiving the way God forgives." *Luke: The Gospel of Amazement*. (IVP Books, 2011). 59

⁵ Examples of the Spirit's work: inclusion into the Kingdom (John 3:5); initiation into God's family (1 Cor 12:13); ability to "see" God (2 Cor 4:6); spiritual enlightenment (2 Pet 1:19); power over sin (Rom 8:13), the expansion of the Kingdom through the pushing back of the devil (Matt 12:28), to name a few.