

# Spiritual Engineering



SERMON NOTES  
DECEMBER 8, 2024

The Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 3:1-18

## LUKE 3:1-18 (NRSV)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share

with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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*In light of Christ's coming we are called to turn from sin and self, and turn toward God... allowing God, even now, to transform life!*

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## I. WORDS TO LIVE BY...

- A. The Word of God came to John the "Baptist" ....the specifics of the time, place and message.
- B. "Voice" cries to the people "in the wilderness."
- C. God is moving to "comfort" God's people...PREPARE!
- D. The "way" to comfort is through REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM

**How do you receive John's call to repent?**

**How are you "prepared" for the coming of the Lord?**

## **II. AND DIE BY...**

- A. John's message creates a moment of truth! All illusions of innocence must be abandoned.
- B. REPENTANCE = "turning from sin and turning to God!"
- C. Being "religious" does not save us from sin...but bear "fruit worthy of repentance!"
- D. Repentance leads to "reformed" living...committed to living justly and equitably.
- E. John's message is urgent because the advent of the Messiah is near!
- F. His baptism is not of water, but of the Holy Spirit!
- G. The people were filled with expectation about the coming of the Christ.... what are our expectations of Christ? What are Christ's expectations of us?
- H. What is the "Good News" that we need to hear from God today?

**What are the "fruits" of your response to God's works of salvation for you?**