WORLD OUTREACH CHURCH

SERMON DATE
September 15, 2024

The Cost of Silence

The Gospel of Luke

John the Baptist

Luke 3:1–4 (NIV®)

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,
Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of
Abilene— 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, **the word of God came to John son
of Zechariah in the desert**. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism
of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the
prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for
him.'"

John's Message

Luke 3:7–20 (NIV®)

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "**You brood of vipers! Who warned
you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do
not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of
these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 9 The ax is already at the root of the
trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into
the fire.**" 10 "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. 11 John answered, "The man with two
tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." 12 Tax
collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" 13 "Don't collect
any more than you are required to," he told them. 14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what
should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with
your pay." 15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John
might possibly be the Christ. 16 John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more
powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and
to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." 18 And with
many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them. 19 But when **John
rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil
things he had done**, 20 Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

Luke's Narrative

- Uncomfortable Message
- Resistance & Rejection of Message
- Unlikely Candidates Accept the Message
- Dimensional Life: Impact & Importance of Spiritual Things

Luke 3:21–22 (NIV®)

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven
was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came
from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Jesus' Commentary on John the Baptist

Luke 7:21–30 (NIV®)

21 At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to
many who were blind. 22 So he replied to the messengers, "**Go back and report to John what you
have seen and heard**: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured,
the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 23 Blessed is the man
who does not fall away on account of me." 24 After John's messengers left, **Jesus began to speak
to the crowd about John**: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the
wind? 25 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear
expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. 26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my
messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 28 I tell you, among those born of
women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater
than he." 29 (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged
that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. 30 But the Pharisees and experts
in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

Jesus' Ministry

Luke 4:1–2 (NIV®)

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 2
where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end
of them he was hungry.

- **Jesus "Led by the Spirit" in the Desert**

Luke 4:5–7 (NIV®)

5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6
And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I
can give it to anyone I want to. 7 So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

- **The Devil Understands Spiritual Authority**

Luke 4:9–11 (NIV®)

9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are
the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: " 'He will command his
angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will
not strike your foot against a stone.'"

- **The Devil Knows & Quotes Scripture**

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