

Sermon Brief, Important Cross References and Quotes, Helpful Links, Fill in the Blank Listening Aid, “How Well was I Listening Questions”

November 28, 2021

Luke 3:7-17, “How to Identify the Messiah”

Sermon Brief:

1. The gospel of Luke is claiming Jesus is the key to God’s plan for fixing everything.
2. But, how can we be sure of that?
3. Especially, since he got crucified.
4. Luke is writing this gospel for the purpose of making clear what happened with Jesus really did do what God said it would.
5. He begins making his argument in chapters 1 and 2 by laying down his basic thesis, which is that Jesus is the fulfilment of the Old Testament. Then after telling us what the book is going to be about, in chapter 3, he gets started proving his point.
6. He wants to show you how you can be sure Jesus is the One that was promised and he starts making his case with John the Baptist.
7. Why?
8. To help you understand why we began looking at verses 1-6, where Luke is showing us that John is a very special prophet who was promised by the Old Testament. Luke is saying in verses 1-6, I am talking about John because the Old Testament promises a very special prophet who is going to come to get God’s people ready before the world sees God’s salvation. And in verses 7-14, Luke’s like, John is that prophet. Look at what happened.
9. After showing us what the Old Testament says about the prophet who would come before the Messiah, Luke shows us what John did. First he gives us a look at his message. Surprise, surprise! He says what the Old Testament says he would say. And then second, he tells us their response. It looks like the beginnings of a nationwide revival.
10. And so again, I am trying to help you see the context.
11. Because the big moment in this passage is verses 15-17. That’s like the climax. But Luke’s doing a lot of work to get you ready for that climax, by showing you why you really need to listen to John. And again, the reason you need to listen to John is because he’s doing what the Old Testament said the prophet would do before God stepped in to save and the people seem to be responding the way the Old Testament said they should. In other words, John is clearly the very special prophet the Old Testament promised who is supposed to point to the Messiah.
12. And so when the people ask whether John might be the Messiah, his answer is very important. Because John is the One who is supposed to come before the Messiah and identify Him for us.
13. **Specifically he says three things. First, he says he can’t be the Messiah. Second, he talks about two key characteristics of the Messiah. And then third, he tells us how we can know who the Messiah is by describing what the Messiah is going to do.**
14. To make it really simple, the Old Testament promises this day when God is going to act in the world in this great big saving way and one sign we are in that day is that the people of God will have the Spirit of God, and the point is, that it is going to be

the Messiah who makes that happen. You are going to know who the Messiah is by looking for the one who baptized people in the Spirit of God.

15. And if you know that, you understand that, you are ready for the argument of Luke and Acts, because Luke is like, what happened after Jesus was crucified? He rose and poured out the Holy Spirit.
16. And you know what that means? It means your response, your relationship with Jesus is very, very important. He is the One the Old Testament promised would come to provide salvation for His people and He is the One who is going to judge His enemies. He is a dividing line. He is what separates those who belong to God and who will experience the kingdom of God from those who don't, and who won't.
17. And so this sermon is an invitation. God has acted in this world and has provided a Savior for the world and Jesus is that Savior and one way we know it is because He has poured out the Spirit on His people, and so you need to respond before it's too late. Because here's the warning. God is not only sending Jesus to baptize with the Spirit, he will send Jesus to baptize with fire.

Important Cross References and Quotes:

1. Luke 13:1ff
2. Joel 2:18
3. Isaiah 66:15
4. Luke 12:49
5. Jeremiah 31:31-34
6. Ezekiel 36:25,27
7. Isaiah 32:15; Isaiah 44:3
8. Luke 24:48,49
9. Acts 1:4

Helpful Links:

1. [The Holy Spirit in Luke and Acts](#)
2. Going Deep: [Dispensationalists and Spirit Baptism](#)
3. [Were Old Testament Believers Indwelt by the Holy Spirit?](#)

PowerPoint Presentation [Link](#)

With Fill in the Blanks [Link](#)

Fill in the Blank Listening Aid:

- I. Introduction
 - A. How do we know Jesus is the _____ of the Old Testament?
- II. Luke begins to make his case by looking at _____
 - A. Why _____?
 1. What the Old Testament said would happen
 2. What happened
 - B. John is the One the Old Testament promised would _____ the Messiah
 - C. So what does he say?

D. The One who is supposed to point out the Messiah identifies the Messiah as he answers a question about whether or not He is the Messiah.

1. He is definitely _____ the Messiah
2. He gives _____ key characteristics of the Messiah
 - a) Someone who has _____ like we have never seen before
 - b) Someone who is more _____ than anyone we have ever seen before
3. He tells us how we can know who the Messiah is by describing what the Messiah is going to _____
 - a) He will baptize with the _____ and with _____

III. Conclusion

How Well Was I Listening Questions:

Here are some questions you should be able to answer after listening to the message.

1. What is Luke claiming about Jesus?
2. What would cause people to be uncertain about that?
3. What is Luke trying to do in chapters 1 and 2? What is he then doing in chapter 3?
4. Why does Luke begin with John the Baptist?
5. What prophet does Luke quote as he talks about John?
6. What is John's relationship with the Old Testament? How does what happened with John prove that?
7. What question are people asking about John in this passage and why is that so significant?
8. Why is John's answer so important?
9. How is John's answer like a clue in the book of Luke and Acts?
10. What does it mean that the Messiah would baptize with fire?
11. How does what John say about the Messiah baptizing with the Spirit connect to the end of Luke and the beginning of Acts?
12. If Jesus did all this that John said the Messiah would do, what difference does it make? How should we respond to this message?