

Christmas Unwrapped!

An Advent Worship and Preaching Series

December 6, 2009

Week 2: Luke 3:1-20

Unwrapping God's PEACE

We would all love to experience PEACE in our world today, right? To see the end of war and return of soldiers from the front would be a boon to our spirits. For strife to end in families and between people groups and for conflict to be non-existent (even in the church) would further fill us with hope. So what is this message that John brings with him in Luke 3? Is it a message of peace or something else? How do phrases such as “unquenchable fire” and “mountains being made low” bring an end to strife as we know it? Or, just maybe, is God's PEACE different from our understanding of peace? Listen in as we unwrap God's perfect gift of PEACE to us today!

Textual Notes for Luke 3

The ministry of John is described in a series of readings that are loosely connected. John provides a framework in the introduction (v.1) and the conclusion (v.3) by mentioning Herod the tetrarch. This encourages us to see John's ministry as a whole. Luke also provides a frame to the preaching of John by summarizing John's message at the beginning as preaching a baptism of repentance to the forgiveness of sins (3:3) and at the end as a proclamation of Good News to the people (3:18). As John begins his preaching, he “prepares the way of the Lord.” This is a way for everyone, because now everyone will be affected by the coming of Jesus.

Questions for Reflection and Growth

Where are you searching for PEACE in your life? Do you expect to find it when your bank account reaches a certain level? Or when you meet the right person to marry? Or in _____? The PEACE that Christ brings is a much different peace than that of the world. Are you able to see the difference? If you are, what difference does it make in your life today and what will you do tomorrow to share the PEACE of Christ with others?