



Pointing People

to Jesus

Luke 3:15-22

January 22, 2023

The Big Idea: John the baptizer was faithful to his calling to prepare the way for the Messiah. He never sought the spotlight for himself or got in the way of others **seeing** Jesus. Once we have encountered Jesus and received His salvation we get to spend the rest of life pointing people to Him through our Christ-like **words, attitudes,** and **deeds.**

Luke 3:1–14 (ESV)

3 ¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts *concerning John, whether he might be the Christ*, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is *mightier than I* is coming, the strap of whose sandals *I am not worthy* to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with *unquenchable fire*."

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reprovved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and *when Jesus also had been baptized* and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.**"

God's Eternal Truths:

1. When Truth is declared and explained some people respond by being **hopeful** and open to **hearing more** about Jesus. [v. 15]
2. Like John, we must always remember to continually point people to Jesus, refusing **credit** or the **spotlight**. [vv. 15-16]
3. Never forget that only Jesus can **save**. [v. 16]
4. Jesus is the only one who is qualified to **judge** the hearts and actions of people. [v. 17]
5. Explaining sin and God's judgment is an essential part of presenting the **Good News** (the Gospel). And, it is a great act of love! [v. 18]
6. There will be some who become **angry** at the declaration of Truth and the lifting up of Jesus. [v. 20]
7. No one is ever saved without the work of **Father, Son,** and **Holy Spirit** – all three persons of our Triune God.

Speaking of Jesus, Peter said ...

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12 (ESV)
