



SERMON NOTES

Week 2 February 25, 2024

"Just Do It"

Luke 1:1–4; 3:1–3, 7–8, 10–11, 13–14, 16



I. Introduction / Review

- A. Christianity specifically rises and falls on the _____ of a single individual: Jesus of Nazareth.
- B. The question to ask if you are deciding whether to take Christianity seriously or not: Is Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John a _____ account of actual events?
- C. Luke wanted to assure us that our faith was anchored to an _____: the resurrection of Jesus.

II. The Message of John the Baptist

- A. The Gospel of Luke reads like history because it is _____.
- B. John's message was designed to get people ready for the coming of the _____.
- C. John says if you want to be right with God, you have to be _____ and not just believers.

III. What Should I Do?

- A. When your Christian faith becomes consumer-oriented only ("what's in it for me?"), your faith is _____ and you don't know it.
- B. John's message was "do what's _____, not what you can justify."
- C. This week, pray "Heavenly Father, what should I _____?"

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *Feb. 26 - Mar. 2, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

John the Baptist was a historical figure in the first century who was known outside of Biblical literature. John's message was designed to get people ready for the coming of the Messiah in the first century. He was preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Large crowds came to see John; and his message disturbed the religious leaders. But what does his message mean for us today?

Monday: Luke 6:12-38

Like Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55, this sermon offered God's favor and comfort to people we see as unfortunate, and warned those we see as particularly favored. Which parts of his sermon most challenge our culture's wisdom on how to "succeed"? Which of Jesus' promises in this sermon mean the most to you?

Tuesday: Luke 6:39-7:10

From Francis of Assisi to Pope Francis, from Martin Luther King, Jr., to Mother Teresa, many of Christ's followers have stood with the oppressed. John Wesley began the Methodist movement, in part, because his day's leading church seemed to cater to the powerful and ignore the poor. How are you (and your church) building your life on Jesus' values?

Wednesday: Luke 7:11-35

In Jesus' day, losing an only son was an utter disaster for a widow. Only through a male relative could she legally own property or funds. Jesus saved the widow, not just from emotional loss, but likely from poverty and marginalization. What has Jesus saved you from? In what ways can trusting his loving power give you strength and comfort for each day?

Thursday: Luke 7:36-8:15

What kind of soil are you (how receptive to God's transforming grace)? Maybe it's better to ask: as you read Jesus' description of the four kinds of soil, which aspects of each type can you identify in yourself? In what ways does Jesus' story challenge you to become more open to God's work in and through you?

Friday: Luke 8:16-39

The small wooden boats used in Jesus' day, powered only by a sail or oars, must have seemed terribly inadequate in a violent storm. Do your human resources seem insufficient to deal with any "storms" you face? How can you open yourself to Jesus' loving power, letting him give you peace as you face those storms?

MOVING FORWARD

John's message to us would be the same as his message in the first century: "if you want to be right with God, you have to be doers and not just believers." Many people admire Jesus for his teachings and the selfless way he lived his life. But there is a difference between *admiring Jesus* and *being a Jesus follower*. Admirers of Jesus didn't shape civilization. The doers did. This week pray: "Heavenly Father, what should I do?"

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) identity, B) reliable, C) event. IIA) history, B) messiah, IIC) doers. IIIA) dying, B) just, C) do.