

**“A voice of one calling
in the wilderness”**

Luke 3:1-22

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness”

Luke 3:1-2

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 wilderness.

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness”

Luke 1:76-80

76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, **77** to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

78 because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven. **79** to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” **80** And the child grew and became strong in spirit ; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

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Malachi 3:1

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness”

[The Word of God was] “the source of John’s preaching and authority for baptizing. God’s message came to John as it came to the OT prophets.”

NIV 1984 Study Bible

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness”

Luke 3:3-6

3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

**5 Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.**

**The crooked roads shall become
straight, the rough ways smooth. 6**

**And all mankind will see God's
salvation.' ”**

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness”

“John’s baptism represented a change of heart, which includes sorrow for sin and a determination to live a holy life.

Christ would deliver the repentant person from sin’s penalty by dying on the cross.”

NIV 1984 Study Bible

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Luke 3:7-15

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, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

12 Tax collectors 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.

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[v.7 is] “Possibly a reference to the coming destruction of Jerusalem. But this certainly also looks beyond any earthly calamity to the eschatological outpouring of divine wrath in the day of the Lord, and especially the final judgment, where divine wrath will be the just fruit of all the unrepentant.”

MacArthur NIV 2011 Study Bible

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness”

Romans 1:18-19

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **19** since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

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John 1:19-28

19 Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. **20** He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.” **21** They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.”

22 Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” **23** John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ” **24** Now the Pharisees who had been sent

25 questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” **26** “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. **27** He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.” **28** This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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Luke 3:16-20

16 John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps 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 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 his marriage to 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.

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Luke 3:21-22

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.”

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Mark 1:9-10

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11** And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.

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John 1:31-34

31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.” **32** Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

33 And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ **34** I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

Applications

- **Know that God calls you to His service in His way and time and for His glory, not yours.**
- **Know that you will probably be a “seed-sower.”**
- **Know that the Gospel will be costly to you.**

Final Thoughts

“John’s faithfulness leads to a final observation. Sometimes doing God’s will is not popular, it may involve personal risk. John speaks up and has to suffer the consequences of his public stand. He describes what sin is and calls people to account before God for it, but he also shows the way out of its sinister grip. The church needs to do the same.”

Final Thoughts

“We need to share honestly what the cross cost God, because sin is costly to humanity. We also need to be clear that we personally are not immune from the confession of sin we call for others to make. Jesus does not save perfect, but forgiven people...”

Darrell Bock

Final Thoughts

Mark 1:14-15

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. **15** “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”