

Topical Series on Revival – Part XI

‘John the Baptist enjoyed a revival following hard preaching’

Luke 3:3 – 8; Key verses – 7 & 8

“(7) Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (8) Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”

Intro: For those who may not know this John in our text, is a cousin to Jesus Christ. Isaiah spoke in the Old Testament book of **Isaiah 40:3** – **“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”** Israel was spiritual in a downward spiral and in the next 150 or so years, the Northern ten tribes would be carried off into captivity and they would be dispersed among the Middle East. The prophet Isaiah wasn’t able to see the New Testament church as his prophecies were about the need for immediate repentance and a future event called the Millennium.

When Christ came to dwell among men in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, the church age is about to begin, and John, the son of Zacharias, a priest, it was Zacharias’ turn to tend the things in the Temple, **Luke 1:5 – 25**, Zacharias doesn’t believe the message of the angel Gabriel and is made dumb (speechless) until the day his son is born and they are going to name the baby after his father, his speech is restored and obeys God in that the baby’s name is to be John. But notice as Luke makes the connection in **Luke 3:1 – 4** to the son of Zacharias whom we know as John the Baptist (John the baptizer). Both Christ and John are by now grown men and Jesus is about step on the scene and begin His public ministry – **John 1:29 – 34**, and then again **John 1:35 & 36**.

John the Baptist wasn’t exactly the friend of Herod the king – **Luke 3:19 & 20** which is the purpose for God sending forth His prophets. To stir-up the lives of those, be they the elitist, rulers, or the religious crowd who believed they did not need a Savior. A savior was for the publicans & other sinners, not those in religious leadership – **Luke 18:9 – 14**. And so –

I. John the Baptist enjoyed a revival after hard preaching on repentance – Luke 3:3-8

- A. It has always been the _____ of God’s prophets/preachers to preach hard against the presence of sin regardless of where or to whom is implicated by the message.
1. We have witnessed and are still witnessing how the blatant crowd who flaunts their

sinful life styles, gets _____ stirred up and often times violent.

2. While they preach tolerance, they militantly demand that everyone who disagrees with their lifestyle choices be _____, _____ and vilified.
3. Legislators who have no spiritual depth, jump on their band wagon and pass legislation that is godless and endeavor to force godlessness as a _____ lifestyle group.
4. Canada is even more bold than America when it comes elevating godlessness while punishing those who stand and preach the righteousness of God from their pulpits.
5. Take these passages for instance –

- a. **Leviticus 18:22** - Prohibits sexual relations between men, describing it as an abomination.
- b. **Leviticus 20:13** - States that men who lie with men should be put to death, emphasizing the severity of the act.
- c. **Romans 1:26-27** - Describes same-sex relations as unnatural and a result of turning away from God.
- d. **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** - Lists homosexuals among those who will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- e. **1 Timothy 1:9-10** - Includes "men who practice homosexuality" in a list of lawbreakers and immoral individuals.

6. A societies attempt to _____ the family, the support of same sex marriages, and living together without being married are all part and parcel to the moral _____ of a society. Americas problem is the hard preaching against sin and disobedience in her pulpits, that there is little to no conviction and the ignorance of seeing any need to repent.

B. When John the Baptist preached publicly against King Herod sinfulness, (**Luke 3:19- 0**) then Herodias showed how wicked hearts will respond when _____ with their sin – **Matthew 14:3 – 11**.

1. When sin or sinners are confronted with the Gospel of truth it will result in one of two responses, fight or flight, broken hearts or hardened hearts.
2. John's preaching was _____ than what they had been hearing, the pharisee feared him, the elite hated him, but because he was true to his calling, thousands came out to hear him – **Matthew 3:1 – 9**. Note verse 8.

C. "Bringing forth fruit meet (evidence) of repentance," the world stands diametrically _____ to everything God established as a pattern of righteousness, why is this? Because Satan currently has some influences in this world of darkness – **II Cor. 4:1-3**.

1. God is counting on us to the light in an ever-darkening world morally & spiritually.
2. John had the opportunity to reach many preparing for them the way for the Lord's public ministry. It may not be easy, but it is always right to stand with God & His Word.