

# FOLLOW CLOSELY

in Christ's Foundations

## PREPARE THE WAY

April 10, 2016 • Luke 3:1-14 • Pastor Ben Miller

Historical Background:



Sermon Notes

**Working Definition of Repentance:** \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ to agree with God about who he is and what he has done...  
...in such a way that \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ of who I am and what I must do.

**Big Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_ the way for God to transform the landscape of your life through \_\_\_\_\_.

### 30,000 Foot View of John's Message (3:3-6):

- 1) Repentance prepares the way for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Repentance prepares the way for \_\_\_\_\_.

### Ground-Level View of John's Message (3:7-9):

- 3) Repentance prepares the way for \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Result of John's Message (3:10-14):

- 4) Repentance prepares the way for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Repentance prepares the way for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) Repentance prepares the way for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7) Repentance prepares the way for \_\_\_\_\_.



Sermon Notes

**Personal Reflection and Application:**

- ◆ **Have I ever truly repented?** *In other words have I ever ultimately changed my mind to agree with God about...*
  - ⇒ **Who he is?** *God is perfect and holy and the only one worthy of the worship of my life. He created everything (including me) for his glory alone.*
  - ⇒ **What he has done?** *The only way to be restored in my relationship with God is through the work of Jesus Christ, who lived the perfect life I could not live, died the death I deserve to die, and rose again so that I could have new life in him.*
- ...in such a way that changes my understanding of...
  - ⇒ **Who I am?** *I am not the savior of my own life, Jesus is. I am not the master of my own life, Jesus is.*
  - ⇒ **What I must do?** *As one who is made alive through the work of Jesus Christ alone, my life is now completely wrapped up in his plan and purposes.*
- ◆ *What areas of my life still need to be humbled before God?*
- ◆ *Do I see my sin as something for which I am personally responsible to repent?*
- ◆ *Do I see fruit in my life that is keeping with repentance? Specifically from this passage, do I see...*
  - ⇒ *Generosity?*
  - ⇒ *Integrity?*
  - ⇒ *Equity?*
  - ⇒ *Contentment?*

**Small Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What can we take away from Luke's summary of the political/religious landscape at the time of the ministries of John and Jesus? In what ways is it similar or different than our contemporary political/religious landscape? What does all of this teach us about God and his work?
2. What does it mean to repent? How does the biblical definition of repentance differ from popular misconceptions about repentance?
3. In what way does repentance "prepare the way for God to transform the landscape of your life?" How have you seen this play out in your life?
4. As a group, look at each of the four fruits that John called for to the various groups in his audience (*generosity, integrity, equity, and contentment*). *What do we need to believe about God and his work in order to exhibit this fruit in our lives?*
  - ⇒ *Generosity:*
  - ⇒ *Integrity:*
  - ⇒ *Equity:*
  - ⇒ *Contentment:*

**Breakout Time**

Split your group into men and women to discuss: Which of the four fruits mentioned (if any) do you see evidenced in your life, and which of the four fruits mentioned (if any) do you see requires a renewal of repentance.