

Luke 3: 1-6 John the Baptist calls to Prepare the Way

John's words summarize Advent, **"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him...."** These are excerpts from today's scripture:

"...the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As 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.

⁵Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

⁶And all people will see God's salvation."

John's objective and mission was to bring people to their Savior through repentance and baptism. John preached the necessity of repentance for the remission of sins.

Note that John's message didn't come from imperial Rome or even from Israel's religious institutions. It came from a wild and wooly man in the desert, on the fringes of society rather than in its halls of power.

John denied being the Messiah but promised the people their hopes for the Messiah would be realized.

How can WE "Prepare"? We can use Luke 3:1-6 in this advent season:

- 1) Read the Luke selection in its entirety
- 2) Ponder for a minute of that historic moment
- 3) Consider that John "prepared the way" and that Christ DID come
- 4) Say a silent prayer that John's message from nearly 2000 years ago has meaning and direction in our lives today.

Submitted by Owen Blakslee