



Riverstone
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sermon Based Questions

Date- Sunday 14th December 2017

Series- Advent 1

Preparing the Way!

*“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.” – Luke 1.*

**1. What then is this child going to be- the Lord’s hand is with him.
(Luke 1:57-66)**

**2. A prophet of the most high- preparing the way for the Lord.
(Luke 1:67-80)**

A. Examining the texts.

1. Read Luke 1:5-25. What does it tell us about Zechariah? Who was he and what did he do? How does he lose the capacity to speak?
2. Read Luke 1:5-25. What does Luke tell us about the mission and ministry of John the Baptist?
3. Read Luke 1:57-66. What events lead to Zechariah being enabled to speak again? How do people respond to his revived speech? Vs 65-66.
4. Read Luke 1:67-80. Who enabled Zechariah to prophesy? What did he prophesy about John the Baptist and what did he prophesy about the coming Messiah?

B. Meditation & application

5. Between Luke 1:5-25 & Luke 1:57-66 Zechariah has a change of heart. How does he change? How is his unbelief in 1:5-25 altered in his obedience in 1:67-80? What does God do for Zechariah when he embraces God's redemptive plan?
6. What does the content of Zechariah's prophecy tell us about the nature of the prophetic gifting? What was the purpose of Zechariah's prophecy do you think?
7. John the Baptist's ministry was very much bound up in giving glory to Jesus. How does John's example speak to you about your life?
8. At one point- John said about his role- "He (Jesus) must become greater, I must become less." How could you embrace this as a motto for your life? What could you do, say or be to "make more of Jesus?"
9. How does Zechariah's prophecy point toward the character of God himself? Who is God revealed as through this prophecy and how does that speak to your relationship with him today?

"Dear Heavenly Father; Thankyou for raising up John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son. We thank you for his beautiful example of a life bent around the goal of giving glory and honor to Jesus your messiah- the light and our hope. We pray that you would help us to become like John- being concerned for Jesus to shine more than us or more than that- shine through us. Help us to have a passion for Jesus glory- Amen.