



Sunday after
Christmas:

PREPARE THE
WAY

Luke 3:1-14

Luke 3:1-3

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:4-6

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

*“‘Comfort, comfort my people,’ says your God.
‘Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that
her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is
pardoned.’” (Isaiah 40:1-2)*

Luke 3:7-9

7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

To REPENT is to change directions, to reorient, to turn your life away from one thing and towards something else.

Luke 3:10-14

10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then shall we do?' 11 And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' 14 Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.'"

“And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.” (Luke 1:16-17)

PREPARE THE WAY means put into
the flesh the simple things to which
God has called you.

*“He has told you, O man, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
But to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”*

(Micah 6:8)

PREPARE THE WAY!

Where have you wandered from God's path this past year?

What practices or habits in your life are displeasing to God and hindering his work and leadership in your life?

What is he calling you to turn from as we start a new year?

In what positive step can you take to live out your repentance this coming year?

How is it related to what you are confessing and leaving behind?

What tangible act of loving God and your neighbor is Christ calling you to this next year as you abide with Him?