Religion Enters the Presidential Race

LESSONS THIS QUARTER
5) 01 Apr............ Luke 6:12 – 8:56 ............ Christianity 102 – Live to Benefit Others
6) 08 Apr............ Luke 24:13-35 ............ Be Confident of the Resurrection
10) 06 May ........... Luke 17:11 – 19:27 .......... Christianity 106 – Learn to Pray

INTRODUCTION
- Remember, the purpose of the Gospel of Luke was to convince Theophilus of the facts of his faith ➔ Jesus was God in the flesh
- The life of Jesus was planned out before time began, and Luke 4:1
- What’s the significance of 40 days? Did
- Since Jesus was sinless, why did He get baptized?

Passage | Comments
---|---
**Crying in the Wilderness**
- Luke accurately lists several historical figures (Herod & his brother Philip, T. Caesar, High Priests Annas and Caiaphas, and P. Pilate), their territories, and their joint reigns (TC’s 15th yr), making Luke a credible historian on par with Josephus, Tacitus, and Eusebius
- v3. Baptism of Forgiveness by JTB was temporary and prepared his listeners for the coming Messiah
- vv10-14. “What should we do?” ➔ Share, don’t steal, be content – are all works indicative of a changed heart
- vv16-17. Baptism of Forgiveness with the Holy Spirit and Fire by Christ was a permanent marking/sealing
  - The Fire is indicative of man’s final judgment
  - ...and possibly indicative of the Tongues of Fire that alighted on the disciples on the day of Pentecost – a onetime occurrence ..Acts 2:1-4
  - Baptism of the Holy Spirit for each believer occurs at the moment of belief when they are saved, sealed, forgiven forever – a onetime occurrence ..... Eph 1:13
  - Baptism by water for each believer is a bold public testimony of what occurred internally for all eternity – another onetime occurrence (usually)
- vv19-20. JTB was jailed & executed for telling an unbeliever his marriage was wrong. Did JTB lose his head needlessly, or should marriages be taken seriously?

**3:1-20**

**If Christ was courageous enough to hang naked on the cross in front of men, women & children then we should be courageous enough to get wet for Him. If we are ashamed of Him He will be ashamed of us” Luke 9:26**

Passage | Comments
---|---
**The Baptism of Jesus**
- Since Jesus was sinless, why did He get baptized?
- Again, water baptism is a very powerful testimony to the church and to the world of who we belong to
- Many Muslims and pagans who get baptized as a Christian lose their jobs, family, and even their lives

**3:21-22**

**The Genealogy of Jesus**
- Matthew lists Joseph’s lineage through Solomon, making Jesus the legal heir to the throne of David
- Luke apparently gives the lineage of Mary, making Jesus the physical heir to the throne of David through Nathan, one of David’s other sons

**3:23-38**

**40-Day Wilderness Fast To Kickoff His 3 Year Ministry**
- What’s the significance of 40 days? Did he plan things?
- How does refraining from food really empower us?
- Consider Isaiah 58 for the elements of a godly fast

**4:1-2**

**Passage**
- Fasting God’s Way
  - To win the battle against wickedness....... Isaiah 58:6
  - To bring relief to those afflicted...................v6
  - To relieve oppression..............................................v6
  - To break every yoke/burden.................................v6
  - To share with the hungry.................................v7
  - To restore the homeless/poor..............................v7
  - To cover the naked............................................v7
  - To resolve personal issues....................................v7

**Isaiah 58**
- Results of a Godly Fast (1 Day of Atonement)...........v5
  - Hope is seen ......................................................v8
  - Health is restored ...........................................v8
  - Righteousness is restored....................................v8
  - God’s glory is proclaimed.................................v8
  - Prayers are answered........................................v9

**4:13**

- The Temptation of Jesus
  - Jesus did not perform any miracle to keep from sinning
  - His model to us is to know and live by God’s word
    - “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you”.......................Psalm 119:11
  - Satan came at Jesus with 3 basic areas of human weakness, and Jesus responded back with Scripture
    - Physical Pleasure (e.g. food). There’s nothing wrong with eating unless it’s gluttonous, or put above a higher priority ➔ to serve God
    - Pride. We all want to be exalted, but God comes first
    - Prove Thyself. God wants to be trusted, not tested
to perform magic tricks – so let’s not cheapen Him

**4:14-30**

- Rejection at Nazareth
  - Jesus, after his 40 day fast and “in the power of the Spirit” headed for his hometown, and He ticked ‘em off
  - What does it mean to be “in the power of the Spirit”? 
    - Must first be in a state of righteousness before God
    - Must have an open prayer line with God
    - Must know God’s will, God’s word, God’s direction
  - v24. Why is no prophet accepted in his hometown?
  - vv28-30. What would drive His hometown people to want to kill Him by trying to push Him off the cliff edge?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS
- We may not have the luxury to head off to the wilderness to fast 40 days, but we should make plans each year to give God at least 1 day to recommit and refocus ourselves to His service
- We should also make sure we are living righteously and not after the flesh, and empowered in the Spirit to accomplish God’s will

NEXT WEEK:
- Luke 4-6. Jesus begins to select His disciples and begins performing miracles to identify Him as the promised Messiah