



Bible Reading
Luke 3:1 - 6



Luke 3: 1 - 3

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;



Luke 3: 4 - 6

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.



God prepares for Jesus

- A very long time ago, God prepared for Jesus' arrival
- Isaiah wrote that someone would come to prepare the people for Jesus's arrival



God prepares for Jesus

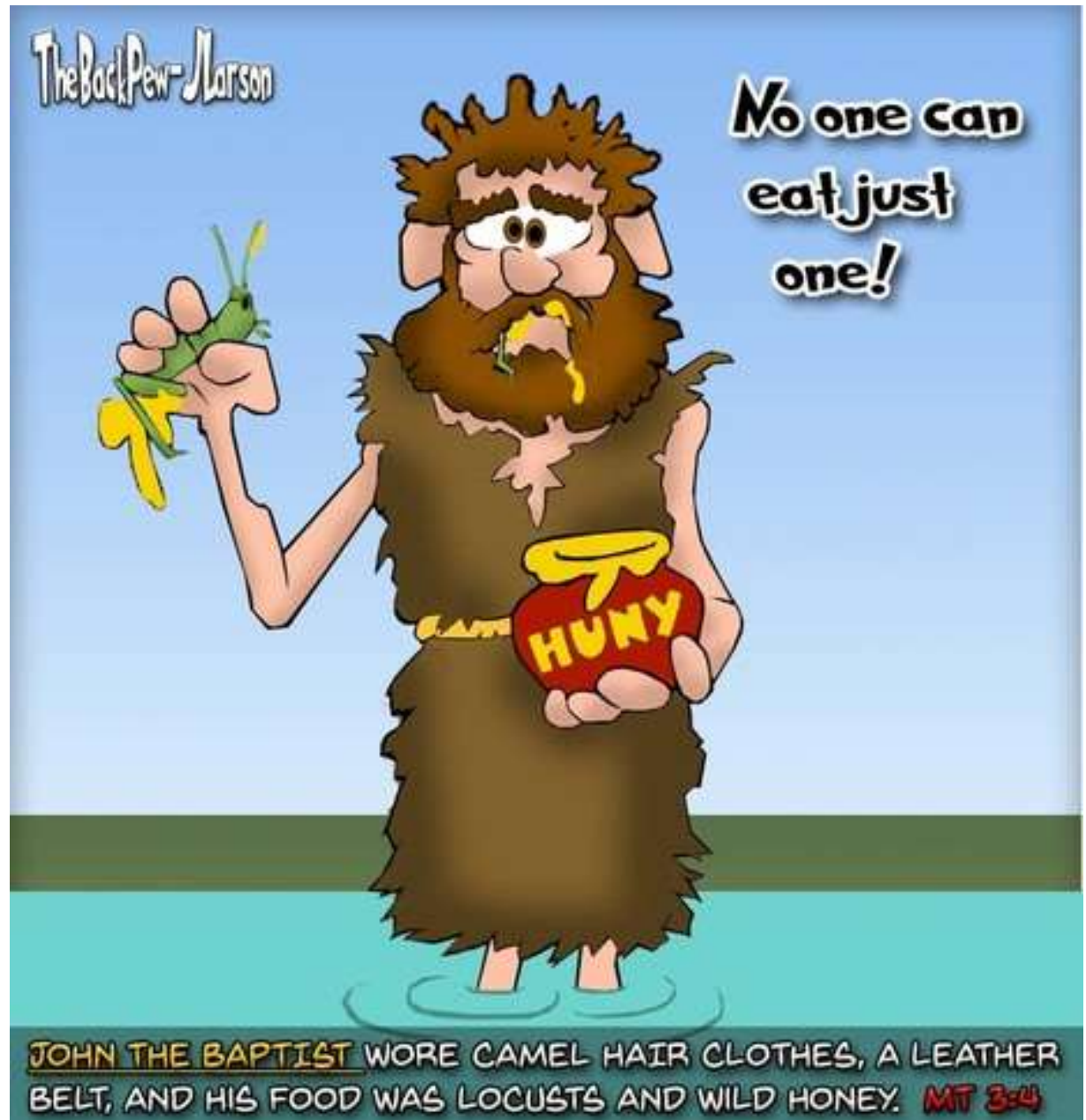
- Who did God send to prepare the people for Jesus' arrival?
- John who we know as John the Baptist.





What do we know about John?

- He was Jesus' cousin
- He baptised lots of people including Jesus
- He wore strange clothes
 camel's hair and a leather belt
- He ate strange food
 locusts and honey





What did John do?

He told people that
Jesus was coming
and what they had to
do to get ready for
Him.





Be John

1. Make yourself a beard.
2. Make yourself something to get people's attention.
3. Eat locusts and honey?





Luke 3:1-6
John the Baptist
prepares the way



Context

- c. AD 29 – Tiberius became emperor in AD14
 - Pontius Pilate reigned AD 26 – 36
 - Herod Antipas tetrarch 4 BC – AD 39
 - Herod Philip tetrarch 4 BC – AD 36
 - Lysanias ruled until AD 37
 - Caiaphas High Priest AD 18 – 36
 - Annas High Priest AD 6 – 15 but continued to be called high priest after he left office

Dates verifiable in historical sources outside the Bible



God prepares

- With John – to make sure the people are ready
- 700 BC with Isaiah – planned well in advance



Prepare the way for the Lord

- Straight paths – normal way to prepare for a king's arrival
- All obstacles removed
- John is sent to do the same for Jesus' arrival
 - Remove obstacles
 - Get the people clean
 - Consecrate themselves
- Why? So God can do amazing things.



Why did God prepare?

- We matter to Him
- Meeting place for us and Him
- He keeps moving towards us

“God prepared for all eternity to be with you, to know you, to love you, to spend eternity with you” Simon Ponsonby –
Turn to Jesus



What did John do?

- Preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins – verse 3



Repentance

- Repent – turn around
- Repent – 12th most common word in the OT – 1050 times
- Mark 1:14 – first thing Jesus says is Repent
- Be sorry, say sorry, **TURN AWAY**



Obstacles

- God is moving towards us in love. Are there obstacles in the way?
- What is preventing us from getting close to God or God close to us?
- God can remove it, even if we can't.
- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9



Call to repent

- John and Jesus calling the people to repent. Why?
- Is the same true for us?
- Spent time with God, listening to Him



Daily intimacy with God

- Imagine you are sitting with Jesus reviewing the day. Where are you?
- He is gazing at you with such love in his eyes.
- Talk through the day with Him.
- Ask Him where you got it right and where you got it wrong and then repenting.



Lectio365

The day is done, the night has come, the day will soon be over. And so, in the quietness of this moment, I still my soul and spend this time with You.



Rejoice

Reflecting on the day that has passed, Lord, show me where you were at work in my life. In what ways did I experience Your goodness and when did I hear you speak?

Pause and pray



Repent

Father God, would you shine a spotlight now on the shadows of my motivation and the darkness of my deeds. I take a moment to confess my sins before you now.

Pause and pray



Repent

God of grace, thank you that when I confess my sins, You are faithful and just, forgiving and purifying me from all unrighteousness. I receive your forgiveness now.

Pause



Ignatian Examen

- Recall that you are, and have been, in God's presence;
- Pray to God's Spirit to help you see the whole day;
- Prayerfully review your day and ...
- Give thanks for all the good things of the day.... and all the people you encountered.



Ignatian Examen

- What stands out? What is God saying to you?
- What are the shadows, the struggles, today? If need be, say sorry for any lack of love of God or neighbour.
- Then close with a prayer of hopefulness for the new day to follow, with all its gifts and opportunities; ask for the grace that you need for tomorrow.



The Result



Be John





**What did John
say?**





We feel sorry.

We pray to Heavenly Father, tell Him what happened, and ask for His help to make a better choice next time.

We apologize and try to make it better.

We feel peace and know that we have been forgiven.





Be John





John the Baptist Song

Oh brave John the Baptist
Wearing camel hair,
Lived in the wilderness
Eating locusts there;
Came to the people
and announced to them:
Repent! Repent!
For God's Kingdom's coming near
Repent! Repent!
For God's Kingdom's coming near.