

Preparing for Peace

Come and Adore Him

Luke 3:1-6

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

...a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

REFLECTION

The word of God came to John in the wilderness--the same place God usually finds us. Because this word didn't arrive as people had expected, John needed to prepare the people of Israel to hear it. How we prepare for things matters. **What have you learned from being prepared for events in your life?**

Advent reminds us that preparation is a key component of our spiritual lives. The candle of peace reminds us that Christ's reign is one of peace. **How do you think about peace? Where do you find peace in your life?**

Consider these three ways we can prepare ourselves for peace so we can experience Christ's salvation:

- 1) Humility - helps put us at peace with God and creates a capacity in us to have mercy for others. **How can you find greater peace in your relationships through forgiveness?**
- 2) Narrow our focus - we rob ourselves of peace through trying to control our circumstances. **In what areas do you need to surrender control to God who provides peace beyond understanding?**
- 3) Love the one you see - committing ourselves to loving the ones we see means loving others the way they are. **Who in your life do you need to love because of who they are and not their identity?**

Heavenly Father, thank you for your peace that passes understanding. Strengthen us this week to seek peace by seeing others through your eyes, surrendering control, and offering mercy. Amen.