

#### Day 4: The Sinless One Steps In

Read and Reflect: Luke 3:21

Jesus joins the crowds in baptism. Though sinless, He identifies with sinners. The Jordan anticipates the cross – Christ stepping into our place as our suffering Substitute.

What does it mean that Jesus drew near to sinners?

How does His strong humility comfort you?

#### Day 5: The Father's Delight

Read and Reflect: Luke 3:22

Heaven opens. The Spirit descends. The Father declares: “You are my beloved Son.” Before Jesus performs a miracle or goes to the cross, His identity is affirmed.

Have you trusted Christ as God's Beloved Son, your Redeemer?

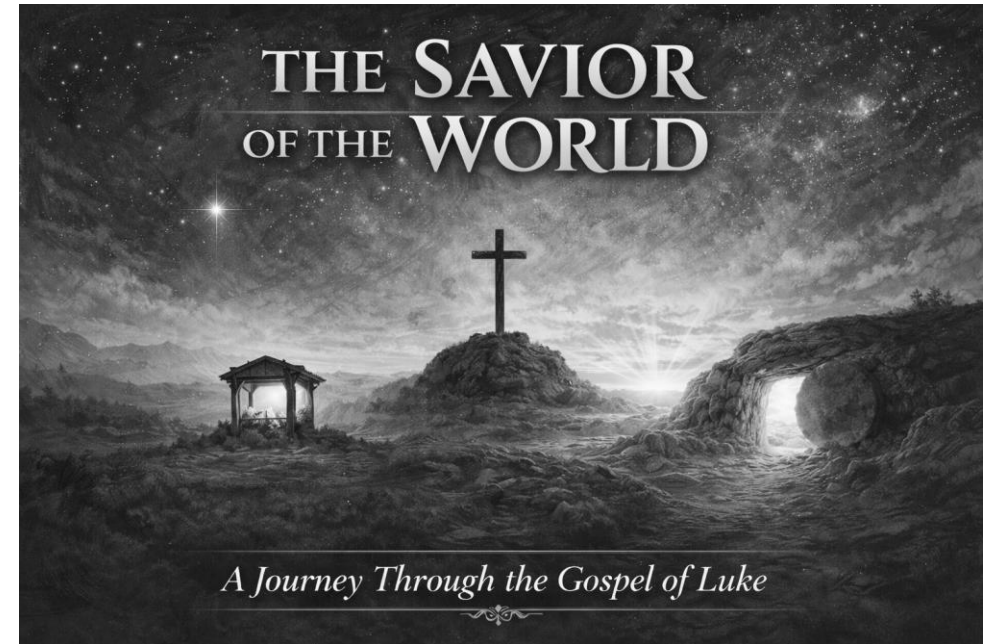
How does the Father's declaration strengthen your faith in Christ?

**Christ has come for you—Will you come to Christ?**

#### Questions for Self-Examination:

- Will you trust the Father's Beloved Son?
- Will you come to the Savior who stepped into the waters of repentance for you?
- Will you turn from your old ways and rest your life solely on Him?

The question is not whether Christ is willing — the question is whether you are willing to come to Him.



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THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD:

The Beloved Son

Luke 3:18-22

## **SERMON NOTES**

**Big Idea:** God’s plan of redemption turns on one great declaration: Jesus is the Father’s Beloved Son, sent to save sinners.

### **The Bold Prophet (v. 18-20) – A Minister of the Word and Witness to the Truth**

- John preached “good news” – not because salvation was finished, but because the Redeemer was near.
- John confronted sin even in high places (Herod), like Elijah before Ahab.
- John’s imprisonment was not failure, but the completion of his mission.

Key Truth: God’s redemption does not depend on the freedom of the prophet.

### **Passing the Baton – The Turning Point of Redemptive History**

- John stands as the final voice of Old Covenant anticipation.
- Jesus steps forward as the fulfillment of every promise.
- The forerunner fades; the Redeemer appears.
- Preparation gives way to presence. Promise gives way to fulfillment.

Key Truth: John was not the light – he pointed to the Light.

### **The Beloved Son (v. 21-22) – Entering the Waters, the Response of Heaven**

The Redeemer’s Repentant Baptism – Why was Jesus baptized if He is sinless?

1. To fulfill all righteousness as the obedient Son.
2. To identify with sinners by being numbered with the transgressors.
3. To inaugurate His public ministry whereby His mission begins.
4. To purify baptism itself...Christ consecrates the waters.

Confirming Christ’s Commission – The Triune God acts in redemption.

- The Father speaks and sends
- The Son submits and serves
- The Holy Spirit descends and empowers

Key Truth: Jesus enters the waters for us; heaven opens to affirm Him as Savior.

## **WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**

### **Day 1: The Good News of Repentance**

Read and Reflect: Luke 3:18

John’s message was sharp, but Luke calls it “good news”. Why? Because repentance is not God’s pushing sinners away – it is God mercifully calling them home. Repentance is the doorway into grace because the Redeemer is near.

Do you see repentance as a burden or as mercy?

What sin is God calling you to turn from today?

### **Day 2: Boldness in Witness**

Read and Reflect: Luke 3:19-20

John confronted Herod not out of pride, but faithfulness. God’s truth reaches every heart, even the powerful. John reminds us that discipleship includes courage—speaking truth even when costly.

Where are you tempted to stay silent about sin?

How can you witness with humility and courage?

### **Day 3: Passing the Baton**

Read and Reflect: Luke 3:18-21

John’s ministry ends not with applause, but obedience. He decreases as Christ increases. The gospel is not about the messenger, but the Savior.

Are you clinging to control or learning to point to Christ?

What does “decreasing” before Christ’s Lordship look like in your life?