

These notes are designed to be used by small groups on Zoom, by members of a family or by a couple of friends on the telephone. They are based on our Sunday sermons and are designed to help us all think through the issues raised about “God in my Everything”. You will get the most out of them if you have heard the sermon first.

Sermon Date: 12 Dec 2021

Bible Passages: Luke 3:7-18

Theme & Introduction

Are you ready to meet Jesus?

If you really get into the Bible passage using Section 1, just use that and the spiritual exercise. If section 1 doesn't take you long, then use the questions in section 2 too and the spiritual exercise. It will help with question (1) if you have a printed copy of the passage for everyone (see page 2 of the notes). There will be hard copies available in church this Sunday.

Questions

SECTION 1

Read Luke 3:7-18 slowly and carefully. Mark it using the following symbols. Take each symbol at a time and share & discuss what the scriptures are saying.

- The central point or theme
- ? I don't understand this
- ! I find this hard to accept... it doesn't fit my experience
- ➔ This reminds me of something from my own life / experience.
- ↻ This has implications on my life now
- † This has implications for this group or our church

SECTION 2

- Alan said that while we wait for God's Kingdom to come in all its fulness, the three things for us to be doing are: (1) To know Jesus and be known by Him, (2) To faithfully serve Him now, using the talents and gifts He has given us, and (3) Live holy lifestyles.
 - What does “living a holy lifestyle” mean to you?
 - In our society, what are the biggest traps to stop us doing that?
- Alan said, “*Spiritual advance almost always begins with turning away from things that hinder our obedience.*” Can you share examples of that from your experience?

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

- Spend some time in silence asking the Holy Spirit to open your ears and hearts to His voice.
- Read Psalm 139 vv 23-24. Leave 1 minute silence.
- One person slowly read this phrase, using a different word each time. Leave silence in between. “*Lord, I open my XXXXX for you to search me*”.
XXX = finances, speech, thoughts, prayer life, relationships, worship life, TV watching, computer use, leisure time.

Luke 3:7-18 (NIV) used with permission © Biblica

[7] John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? [8] Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. [9] The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

[10] “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

[11] John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

[12] Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

[13] “Don't collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

[14] Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

[15] The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. [16] John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. [17] His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

[18] And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Mark the passage using the following symbols and then discuss them.

- The central point or theme
- ? I don't understand this
- ! I find this hard to accept... it doesn't fit my experience
- ➔ This reminds me of something from my own life / experience.
- ↻ This has implications on my life now
- ✝ This has implications for this group or our church

END