



01/29/2023 "The Magic Elixir"

This week is all about getting right with God by getting right with people. Luke 3 lays out a unique challenge in the context of God's salvation coming to all people. This salvation connects directly to the response of God's people, but it's not what his people expected.

1. If your relationships with someone isn't right, how could you see that impacting your relationship with God?
2. Can you think of time where your relationship with God was affected by someone else? Was it a positive or negative impact? Why do you think it had the impact that it had?

Luke 3 culminates in the Baptism of Jesus. However, the majority of this chapter focuses on John the Baptizer, who heralds the coming of God's kingdom. He declares before his Jewish audience that God's kingdom, as initiated by Jesus, will recalibrate what true faithfulness to God looks like. In this chapter, John the Baptizer quotes from Isaiah 40:3-5 and alludes to Genesis 22:2.

Read Luke 3:4-14

1. What attitude, or false assurance, does John confront in vv.7-9? How would you update this warning for today? In other words, what is the contemporary parallel to what John is confronting?
2. John's audience acknowledges their need for something more when they state, "What then should we do?" What stands out to you from John's instructions? How would you say that these characterize a right relationship with God?
3. Matthew's account of Jesus makes an explicit connection between getting right with God by getting right with people, read Matthew 5:23-24. Why do you think Jesus placed such a heavy emphasis on being right (righteous) with people?
4. Pastor John said, "If you prioritize God, you are going to prioritize people." You can see this principle in Matthew 25:34-40. On which side of the spectrum—prioritizing God or people—do you tend to most naturally focus? How can getting out of balance create frustration?
5. What do you need to do to prioritize people in your life? Are there any people in your life that you have "deprioritized"?
6. What can you do this week to prioritize God by prioritizing people? Only once these two things come into balance can your faith reflect the values of God.