

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 8: Luke 3:21-38

His ways were made known: paths made straight, valleys filled, and hills brought low (Luke 3:5). The banks of the Jordan were flooded with people; its waters muddied with the sins of the people. It was time for “*all flesh to see the salvation of God*” (3:6, NKJV). From His carpenter’s shop, the Messiah arose to step into the river of humanity to take on the sins of the world.

Read Luke 3:21-22.

1. Also read Matthew 3:13-17. What was the purpose of Jesus’ baptism? How does it speak of the path ahead for Jesus?

Michael Card has said, “Here, with John the Baptist, He submits to a baptism of repentance for sins he never committed. On Golgotha, He will die for sins He never committed”.

2. The invisible Holy Spirit takes physical form (v.22). What message was conveyed to John and the people about Jesus by His appearance?
3. What significance might the Father’s words have had to Jesus as He entered the wilderness? His ministry?

Continue in Luke 3, verses 23-38.

4. Luke’s account of Jesus’ lineage looks back, beginning with Heli, the father of Mary, and ending with Adam, the son of God. Why might Luke have chosen to emphasize Christ’s ancestry rather than His baptism?

5. Consider those listed among Christ's relatives. Why are David, Abraham, and Adam important to Christ's purpose? What and whom do they represent?ⁱ

6. How does the inclusion of the lowly reaffirm God's plan for the whole world? (Examples include Tamar (Genesis 38, Matthew 1:3), Rahab (Joshua 2:1-7, 6:17-25, Ruth 4:21, 1 Chronicles 2:11, Matthew 1:5), and Ruth (Ruth 1:2-5, 4:18-22, Matthew 1:5).)

7. Since his defeat was announced in the Garden (Genesis 3:15), how has the adversary directly and indirectly attempted to destroy God's plan of salvation? Consider the assaults against Christ's lineage. Include people groups, kings, etc.ⁱⁱ

8. Christ was the beginning of a new people. Of whom does 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 47-49 speak?

9. God the Father wove Christ's scarlet thread through humanity, intertwining the lives of the prominent and the obscure to bring forth His purpose. When at times it appeared to be unraveling, it was revealed that He never released the thread. How does this knowledge encourage you in your own life?

ⁱ "He was both the *Son of Adam* and the *Son of God* that he might be a proper Mediator between God and the sons of Adam, and might bring the sons of Adam to be, through him, the *sons of God*". (Henry, M. (1994). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume* (p. 1835). Peabody: Hendrickson.)

ⁱⁱ Matthew's genealogy (1:1-17) traces the Kingly, or royal legal line through Solomon which, ultimately, was cursed and terminated (see 2 Kings 24:12-15 and Jeremiah 36:30). Luke's genealogy follows the royal blood line through Nathan (David's son).