

Luke 3:18-20 – John the Baptist Arrested

Introduction

1. Men of Courage – *William Wilberforce*
2. Calling Sin... SIN

Main Idea As a Nation, we need men and women of courage like John the Baptist. Those who will call good, good and evil, evil. And then offer repentance through the gracious Gospel of God.

Biblical Precedence: Political Protest (Luke 3:18-20)

1. John the Baptist speaks out against the sexual immorality of King Herod's Adulterous/Incestuous Marriage to Herodias
 - a. Preached repentance from sin to know the mercy of God
 - b. Herod Antipas married to Nabatea, daughter of Aretas IV
 - c. Herod's half-brother Philip was married to Herodias
 - d. They both conspired to divorce and marry
 - e. John calls them out – it is Sin and it is Unlawful, Repent
 - f. Herod Antipas arrests John the Baptist
 - g. *We need men like John the Baptist today*
 - h. God's Law is higher than Herod's law
 - i. Woe to those who call good, evil and evil, good
 - j. John the Baptist did not do this in his own strength, but with the power of the Spirit of God
2. Government: *The Doctrine of the State* – Thou shall not speak against thy government which is thy rightful and powerful deity
 - a. Separation of Church and State – The Government has declared independence from God
 - i. Christians advocated for Separation of Church & State in order to keep the Government from dictating how we worship and what church to attend
 - ii. Not that the Church would have any influence in the politics, especially since it was established by God
 - b. God Ordained Government (**Romans 13:1-4**)
 - i. Advocate for the Good, Protect and sustain people
 - ii. Promote Life, Punish wrongdoing
 - iii. *Is our government doing these things?* (i.e. Abortion)
 - iv. Preachers and the Church need to speak repentance & redemption into the culture
3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – *We will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up (Dan 3)*

Proclaiming Prophetic Criticism of Culture (Acts 17:16-25)

1. Our Mandate & Mission: Call for Repentance and Forgiveness

2. Paul in Athens
 - a. He preached in the power of the Spirit of God
 - b. He observed culture – was angered by the idolatry he saw
 - c. He boldly preached Christ risen from the dead
 - d. Certain Christian Circles Today: *Do not be too obviously and openly Christian for it comes across as offensive*
 - e. Paul is mocked by some – they think he is foolish
 - f. Paul is not a man-pleaser
 - g. Paul lays out to the Athenians the Grand Biblical Narrative
 - h. God's Power: Creation – God created all things
 - i. He confronts the idolatry – an idol to an unknown god – Paul was not ignorant of culture
 - ii. His/Our Culture – Intellectually dim to believe this
 - iii. All humans came from Adam – Paul is mocked
 - i. Man's Problem: Fall into Sin
 - i. All idolatry began in the Garden of Eden (i.e. King Herod's Sexual Immorality, America's idols)
 - ii. Darwinian Evolutionary Philosophy (**Gen 1:26-27**)
 1. Humans are the crown & glory of Creation
 - iii. Fluidity of the Sexes and Transgenderism
 1. Culture says you choose your gender, God created Male and Female in His image (**Mt 19**)
 2. Extremism in the West – you can lose your job for believing Biblical truth & standing on it
 3. Democrat Policy is pressing it (Joe Biden)
 - iv. Feminism and Homosexuality (**Genesis 1:28**)
 1. God's Command: be fruitful and multiply, train a child; Marriage is the building block of society
 2. Feminism & Homosexuality promote the breakdown of marriages, and society
 - v. Statism and Manhood
 1. Men are commanded to love, provide, protect
 2. Men are commanded to work
 3. The Idol of the State replaces men
 - vi. Abortion
 1. Undergirds Statism, Feminism, Irresponsible Men
 - vii. America's Political Parties support all of these, one is the aggressive & vocal, the other is passive & silent
 - j. God's Profession: Preaching Repentance, Redemption, & Restoration through Jesus Christ; Proclaim the Gospel!
 - i. God instituted marriage, one man, one wife for life
 - ii. Men and Women are created in the Image of God with distinct roles as male and female
 - iii. God provides a Redeemer – His Son (**Genesis 3:15**)
 - iv. Christ has won this victory – not on a political party