



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Christmas Unpolished

A Voice in the Wilderness – Luke 3:2-18

Opening Thoughts: The Christmas season is often celebrated with shine and perfection, but the real Christmas story is raw, unsanitized, and deeply transformative.

Focus: Through John the Baptist, God calls us to prepare for Jesus, not through comfort but through conviction, repentance, and fruitful living.

Read/Reflect

1. Why do you think the Christmas story begins with John the Baptist instead of Jesus?
2. How does John's miraculous birth and calling reflect God's purpose?
3. Read John 1: 6-8. In writing about Jesus, John can't help reflecting on the power of John's ministry as a precursor to Jesus' ministry. Does this surprise you? Why was John's ministry so necessary to Jesus' ministry?

Explore

4. Search your heart this week. Are there "valleys of compromise" or "mountains of self-service" that need attention?
5. Write down areas in your life where you need a "fresh start."
6. What does true repentance look like? Share.
7. John preaches that we should produce fruit in accordance with righteousness. What is one practical way that you can fulfill this imperative this week?

Pray

- Pray for God's help in surrendering your life to Him this week.
- Group Prayer: "Lord, as we prepare for Christmas, help us to walk the path John preached—one of conviction, repentance, and fruitful living. Let us open our hearts to your light and transformation. May we follow Jesus, our Redeemer, with renewed faith. Amen."