

Study Guide: Truth Revealed

Luke 3:15–22

Sermon Outline

I. John Preaches Truth That Corrects Error. (v. 15–18)

- A. John corrects their confusion. (v. 15–16)
- B. John clarifies Christ's supremacy. (v. 17a)
- C. John communicates coming judgment. (v. 17b–18)

II. John Preaches Truth That Confronts Evil. (v. 19–20)

- A. John illuminates Herod's sin by exposing it. (v. 19)
- B. John is imprisoned for speaking truth. (v. 20)

III. John's Proclamation Is Confirmed by God. (v. 21–23)

- A. The Son prays. (v. 21)
 - B. The Spirit's presence reveals God's anointed one. (v. 22a)
 - C. The Father's pleasure confirms His beloved Son. (v. 22b)
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Head — What Does It Mean?

Luke 3:15–22 shows that John is not the Christ, Jesus is greater, and the Father confirms the Son from heaven. The crowd's expectation is corrected, the ruler's sin is exposed, and Jesus' identity is publicly revealed.

Key Greek Words

1. "Expectation" — **προσδοκία** (*prosdokia*)

A state of eager anticipation or waiting with hope. The crowd is not merely curious; they are longing for God to act.

2. "Christ" — **χριστός** (*christos*)

Anointed one, Messiah. The one Israel was waiting for.

3. "Mightier" — **ἰσχυρότερος** (*ischyroteros*)

Stronger, more powerful, greater in rank and authority. John is saying Jesus is in an entirely different category.

4. "Worthy" — **ἱκανός** (*hikanos*)

Capable, sufficient, adequate. John says he is not even adequate to untie Jesus' sandals.

5. "Winnowing fork" — **πτύον** (*ptyon*)

A farming tool used to separate wheat from chaff. It pictures Jesus' role as judge and separator.

6. "Praying" — **προσεύχομαι** (*proseuchomai*)

To speak to God, to commune with God, to petition. Jesus is in active fellowship with the Father.

7. "Beloved" — **ἀγαπητός** (*agapētos*)

Dear, loved, cherished, chosen. This is the Father's declaration of delight in the Son.

Questions

1. What does the crowd's question reveal about their expectation of the Messiah?
2. Why does John refuse to let the crowd identify him as the Christ?
3. What does John's description of Jesus' baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire tell us about Jesus' mission?
4. Why is it significant that John speaks truth to Herod and is imprisoned for it?
5. Why is the Father's declaration from heaven the final and decisive word in the passage?

Application- Luke wants us to see that Jesus is not a religious option among many. He is the beloved Son, the mightier One, and the Spirit-anointed Messiah. John's whole purpose is to point away from himself and toward Christ. The crowd's confusion is corrected only when Jesus is rightly identified, and the Father's voice settles the matter.

Heart — What Does It Reveal?

This passage reveals how easily people can long for God and still misidentify His Son. The crowd wanted the Messiah, but they were not yet ready to recognize Him. That is

still true today. We can be sincere, religious, and emotionally expectant, yet still want a Jesus shaped by our preferences instead of the Jesus God has revealed.

Questions

1. Where am I most tempted to define Jesus on my own terms?
2. What expectations do I bring to God that might not match what His Word actually says?
3. Do I tend to think of my identity in terms of performance, approval, or achievement?
4. What does the Father's pleasure toward the Son say about where my confidence should rest?
5. How does Jesus standing in the water with sinners encourage me in my own weakness and need?

Application

The passage invites us to stop editing Jesus and to stop editing ourselves. John did not let the crowd turn him into the Christ, and the Father did not leave Jesus undefined. The same God who revealed His Son also reveals our hearts. We often want a Jesus who confirms our assumptions, but the real Jesus confronts our error, exposes our sin, and invites us into true life.

Jesus standing in the water with sinners is a picture of His grace. He came where we are. He entered our place. He identified with us in our need. And the Father's declaration over the Son becomes the foundation of our hope: the One who stands with us is the One whom the Father loves.

Hands — What Do I Do?

Application Steps

1. Submit your expectations to God's Word.

Write down one assumption you have made about Jesus, faith, or the Christian life. Ask whether Scripture actually supports it.

2. Confess where you have tried to define Jesus on your own terms.

Pray honestly: "Lord, I have wanted a Jesus who fits my preferences. Forgive me and reveal Yourself to me as You truly are."

3. Rest your identity in Christ instead of your performance.

This week, when you feel pressure to prove yourself, remember the Father's words over the Son. If you belong to Jesus, your life is hidden in the One the Father loves.

4. Practice humble prayer.

Jesus prayed as the beloved Son. Pray this week not as someone trying to earn God's love, but as someone coming to the Father through Christ.

5. Recognize Jesus rightly.

Each day this week, read Luke 3:15–22 and pray: "Father, help me see Jesus as You reveal Him."

Final Challenge

The people at the Jordan were waiting for Jesus to come. We know that He has come. We also know that He is coming again. The challenge this week is simple: stop trying to shape Jesus into your image and start receiving Him as the beloved Son whom the Father has revealed.