

TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

“THE HERALD”

A study of the life and witness of John the Baptist

TUESDAY, MAY 14th, 1990

Subject: “When God sends someone”

Reading: Luke 3:1-38

1. The builder of the approach road;
 - (a) Notice the impressive list of names with which it begins (3:1-2).
 - (b) Notice that Luke identifies John as the fulfiller of Isaiah's prophecy (3:3-6).
2. The name of the approach road was "repentance" (3: 7-14).
 - (a) John describes his listeners as being like vipers in front of a bush fire trying to escape the coming wrath without having their evil natures changed (v. 7).
 - (b) John describes his listeners as hiding in their descendency from Abraham as a substitute for repentance (v. 8).
3. John's reaction to the various kinds of people who came asking what repentance would mean in their case is interesting;
 - (a) Private citizens were told it would mean sharing life's necessities of food and clothing with those in need (v. 11).
 - (b) Tax collectors were told it would mean ceasing to demand more than the appointed amount of tax (v. 12-13).
 - (c) Soldiers were told that it would mean a cessation of extortion (v. 14).
4. John's witness to his Lord;
 - (a) He correctly understood Christ's pre-existence (John 1:30 ; 3:31).
 - (b) He correctly appreciated the sacrificial aspect of Christ's work (John 1:39).
 - (c) He correctly understood the baptism of the Holy Spirit and Christ's ability to execute judgement (Luke 3:16).
 - (d) He saw the mystery of the Holy Trinity (Luke 3:21-38).

“Jesus was man in guise, not in disguise”

Handley C. G. Moule