

SERMON NOTES

Title: *When God is Silent*

Text: Luke 3:1-16

Topic: Preparation / Repentance

Teacher: Pastor Barry

Time: 9/6/2026

File Under: Christian Living



“I was stuck and I was scared.” - Ben Patterson, *Finding Hope When God Seems Silent*

When John the Baptist enters the scene the nation of Israel was **stuck**. They were experiencing tremendous oppression...militarily, economically, morally, spiritually, and physically. But worse of all, God was **silent**.

When you're stuck how do you get unstuck? You need **God to show up**.

Enter John the Baptist... God is about to show up in a big way, but He doesn't just do it. **Preparation** is needed; John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way.

The way you prepare for God to show up is through **repentance**. *“He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance...”* Luke 3:3a.

In the life of the believer the lack of repentance is often evidenced by God's **silence**.

It is to the **religious** people that John speaking. The Sadducees and the Pharisees did not think of themselves as **sinners**. They see themselves as **respectable Jews** and repentance & baptism was for the **Gentiles**.

Repentance is not just repentance for what I **have done**, repentance is for **who I am**, a sinner.

If we are truly repentant John says our life will **bear evidence** of that... *“Bear fruits that befit repentance.”* vs. 8. This is where John begins to build his case that repentance is not just an attitude of sorrow but a lifestyle of acts.

Preparation demands that we are substituting **right acts** for **bad acts**.

“What shall we do?” ... To the multitude he talked about **food and clothing**. To the Tax Collectors he said, *“Don't **collect** any more money than you have coming to you.”* To the soldiers he said, *“Don't **intimidate and exploit** people, and be **content** with your wages.”*

OBSERVATION #1: The *fruits of repentance* involve your **possessions and your money**. OBSERVATION #2: The *fruits of repentance* involve an awareness of the **people** around you who are **in need**.

*“Use your possessions **properly**, do your job **rightly**, and handle people **carefully and justly**.”* When a man or a woman chooses to repent inwardly, in sorrow of sin, and matches it with the acts that befit repentance, then that person is prepared every day to **hear from** God.