

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 Israel was _____. They were experiencing tremendous oppression...militarily, economically, morally, spiritually, and physically. But worse of all, God was _____.

When you're stuck how do you get unstuck? You need _____. Enter John the Baptist... God is about to show up among His people a big way, but He doesn't just do it. _____ is needed; John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way.

The way you prepare for God to show up is through _____. *“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 _____.

It is to the _____ people that John speaking. The Sadducees and the Pharisees did not think of themselves as _____. They see themselves as _____ and repentance & baptism was for the _____.

Repentance is not just repentance for what I _____, repentance is for _____, a sinner.

If we are truly repentant John says our life will _____ 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 day by day as we look to see Christ we are substituting _____ for _____.

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

OBSERVATION #1: The *fruits of repentance* involve your _____. OBSERVATION #2: The *fruits of repentance* involve an awareness of the _____ around you who are _____.

“Use your possessions _____, do you job _____, and handle people _____.” 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 _____ Christ.