



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Promises of God: The Lord Will Make His Way to You

Speaker: A. Redd Sevilla, Launch Pastor of New Life East

Scripture: Luke 3:2-14

during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

And all people will see God’s salvation.”

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

Luke 3:2-14 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

What does the promise of salvation mean? It means that we are being rescued, set free, forgiven, and made whole. God’s salvation is found in Jesus Christ. No matter who you are or where you are, Jesus will make his way to you. Even though there are those of us who do not believe or will not receive him, Jesus still makes his way toward us.

How can a loving God be a God of wrath? Wrath/ Love/Promise

It is because of God’s great love for those who were being taken advantage of, that he was also filled with great wrath towards those who were extorting money. **God’s great wrath is a sign of God’s great love.**

God’s wrath makes him a lover. It is this wrath that fuels his promise to make His way to us. This is good news for those in the world who are experiencing pain, suffering, oppression, or injustice - this promise of God is for them. The Lord will make His way to them.

The wrath of God is very disturbing when it is directed at us or our loved ones. We wonder how can the wrath of God be upon me when I am not like the thieves referred to in our scripture today? Those that withheld goods were put in same category as those who were doing evil. The same holds true for us today, if you withhold generosity, you are put in same category as doing evil against the oppressed and weak. We are all subject to the wrath of God.

How do we escape God’s wrath?

- We deny it. “God is all love and no wrath.”
- We try our best. “As long as I am trying hard, I’m ok.”

By simply trying hard and do my best, we grossly underestimate God. Jesus has to come to fulfill God's promise so that he could take God's wrath. Jesus took the wrath of God upon himself so that we might be restored, and he rose again so that he could be with us.

You can never be too lost to be found or too far to be pursued. There is no sin or obstacle that can keep you from God. Nothing can separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. All people will see God's salvation, because Jesus will make his way to you.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, A. Redd Sevilla, Launch Pastor of New Life East, continues our summer series on The Promises of God in Luke 3. Today Pastor Redd explores The Lord Will Make His Way to You, and that nothing can keep Jesus from coming near to you, not even his wrath.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, were you surrounded by people who were angry and filled with wrath? Or were you surrounded by those who were patient and offered forgiveness? How does the environment you were raised in affect that way you express you anger today? Are you able to offer forgiveness towards those who have hurt you?
3. Where are you today? Are you having a great moment and a good time, or are you struggling and experiencing difficulties? Maybe you feel as though God is making his way to you or maybe you feel as though God has forsaken you or is punishing you with his wrath. Journal about your feelings and where you are right now, offering them up to God.
4. How do you feel when you hear that you can never be too lost to be found, or that there is no need too big for God? Rest in the promise that the Lord has got your back and is coming closer to you. Find time this week to sit in silence with this truth, offering any doubts you might have about this promise up to the Lord.
5. Do you know someone who is feeling lost and as though God has forgotten about them? If so, can you find time this week to communicate with them the truth and promise that Jesus is making his way to them?