

## **Prepare for Jesus (Luke 3:1-20)**

If someone important is coming...

How to prepare for the coming of the MIPOA

### **1. The momentous event**

v.1-2 Just specifying the time period?

Why spotlight John?

The voice of Isaiah 40:3

The “wilderness” of John’s world

Do we find the same significance in what Luke finds significant?

Challenge our way of thinking

### **2. The urgent exhortation**

John’s message – v.3, 5

If you’re not prepared...

Don’t feel the urgency?

“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance” (v.8).

# True repentance

Don’t presume

What does this fruit look like?

Cannot be reduced to a single act at the beginning of the Christian life

### **3. The necessary encounter**

John (picture), compared with Jesus (baptism with the Holy Spirit & fire)

Repentance: not just turning away, but...

*“Either we shall gladly accept the purging fire of the Spirit which burns sin out of us, or we shall have to meet the punitive fire which burns up us and our sins together. To be cleansed by the one or to be consumed by the other is the choice before each of us.” – Alexander MacLaren*