



January 16, 2022

“Sin Under the Microscope”

Luke 3:1-14

The Mission of John the Baptist

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar: v.1-2

A prophet is on the public scene after a 400 year hiatus! v.2-3

A baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins: v.3

How does this approach prepare the way for the Messiah? v.4-6

Putting Sin Under the Microscope

Sin can be understood as “missing the mark”

The mark of furthering with every breath the realities of life and love

Any action or inaction that harms myself, others, or the world

Seeing sin through the analogical lens of bioterrorism

A choice that releases the toxins of selfishness and idolatry

Selfishness and idolatry are spiritual realities that tear apart the fabric of love and life

The end of these toxins is aloneness and death

This model helps us think clearly about “small” and “big” sins

While one may be more severe in the moment, given time all leads to the same end

This model helps us understand the concept of God’s wrath against sin

Imagine a bioterrorist about to detonate a bomb in an elementary school

This model helps us understand the immense cost of the cross to solve the sin problem

Jesus will draw the accumulated toxin of sin into Himself and offer His lifeblood in transfer

John in Action-My sin and Your sin

Everyone has their discernment and their follow up to make:

The poor crowd: Who us? Share tunics and food: v.10-11

Tax Collectors collect no more than authorized. That’s it? v.12-13

Soldiers no extortion and be content with your wages. Bah humbug! v.14

The greater point is to be a fruit bearer (of life and love)

How does this approach prepare the way for the Messiah? v.4-6

The sin toxin works by deceit, misdirection, disguise, lulling us to sleep

Repentance is a splash of water in the face to wake us up: Revelation 3:2,3

Awake people are on the hunt for and apt to recognize the toxin antidote