**BCM Bible Study September 9-10, 2015**

**Luke 3 and 4: The Herald and the Son**

**Read Luke 3:1-23a**

How do you understand the purpose of John’s ministry (v. 4-6, 16)? How is John a herald for “King” Jesus?

*(In verses 4-6, Luke quotes from the prophet Isaiah to help us understand more about the purpose of John’s ministry. This is a picture of a middle-eastern king and his herald. In those days, when a ruler took a journey, a servant or herald was sent ahead of him. This herald warned the people of the land to prepare the roadway through the wilderness for the arrival of the king. Holes in the road had to be filled, bumps and high places leveled, crooked sections straightened and rough spots smoothed.)*

What does it mean to repent? Describe the type of repentance John was calling them to.

*(To repent means to be genuinely sorry for sin and to turn from it to obey God resolutely. Sin means living independently of God, failing to trust him. It is more than just bad morals.)*

What does John’s baptism mean? How do you think it is different than the baptism of Jesus he describes?

*(When John baptized people, this symbolized a radical cleansing of their lives and desire to change direction and turn towards God in faith and trust.)* [*http://www.gotquestions.org/baptism-of-John.html*](http://www.gotquestions.org/baptism-of-John.html)

What is significant about John’s message and the Jewish leaders’ response (v.8)? What would be a contemporary way of this saying? How does John confront this kind of complacency?

**Read Luke 4:1-13 Temptation**

At each temptation, what was the real life appeal/what would that look like to you? Its price? How did he/how would you resist them?

How does the devil use scripture vs Jesus?

Why do all of the devil’s temptations attack Jesus’ sonship (“if you are the son of God”)?

If the devil had three shots at you, what temptations would he use? How do those compare with Jesus’? What can help you resist these appeals to self interest, power, and pride? What encouragement do you find here?

**Read Luke 4:38-44 Healing**

Jesus is in high demand yet he takes time to be alone and with God, how is the reflected in your life?

What other things stuck out to you or impacted you in these verses?

Who do you think Jesus is and what do you think of/ how do you respond to the Jesus presented in Luke so far?

What would John say you could do specifically to show Christian love and repentance?

What one action will you take this week to “produce fruit in keeping with your repentance”?