

## Luke 3:1-14

### - Advent Reflections

- Advent is as much a season of reflection as it is preparation!
- Malachi warns of God’s judgment against sorcery, adultery, perjurers, oppressors of the least of these, those neglect and reject the sojourner, and ultimately those who do not fear God. (Malachi 3:5)
- Then, about 400 years later, John the Baptist proclaims:  
“Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Luke 3:9)

### - The Fruit-Bearing of Reflection

- Compassion, generosity, and acts of mercy and justice are contagious!
- The axe is laid to the roots to strip the fruitless from stealing away what isn’t shared!
- Examining our reflection holds us accountable to where we place our hope.

### - Reflections of Righteousness

- Our **acts of service** are reflections of Christ’s righteousness within us!
- **Intentional discipleship** answers the question of ‘What Shall We Do?’ with faithful and demonstrable action!

#### **Discipleship is where God:**

“Prepares the way of the Lord, Makes his paths straight.  
Fills Every valley, and makes every mountain and hill low,  
and straightens out the crooked, and levels out the rough places,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

- The Advent **invitations to worship** call us to prepare ourselves in the unchanging and faithful promises of Gods acts of righteousness!

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