

Sermon Notes, December 13, 2009

A Long Way from Bethlehem

Series: "The Journey to Bethlehem," Part 3 of 5

Luke 3:1-20

"If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud. And a biggish step, too. At least, nothing whatever can be done before it. For, if you think you are not proud, it only means that you are very proud indeed."

—C. S. Lewis in *Christian Behavior*

Prepare the Way. _____

A.D. 29: Detailed Historic Accuracy (Luke 3:1-2)

- Tiberius Caesar (Caesar, A.D. 14-37)
- Pontius Pilate (Governor, A.D. 26-36)
- Herod Antipas (Tetrarch B.C. 4 to A.D. 39)
- Herod Philip II (Tetrarch B.C. 4 to A.D. 34)
- Annas (High Priest, A.D. 6-15)
- Caiaphas (High Priest, A.D. 18-36)

A Long Way from Bethlehem.

Bethlehem = _____ Feet Above Sea Level

"The country around the Jordan" = _____ Feet Below Sea Level

**THREE BOULDERS THAT
BLOCK THE WAY OF THE KING**

1. The Boulder of _____.

(Luke 3:8 NIV) *Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.*

"A proud person is always looking down on things and people; and of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you. . . We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good looking, but really, this is not true. They are really proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others. It is the comparison that makes us proud—the pleasure of being above the rest. Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone."

Lesson #1: We smooth the way for Jesus by practicing _____.

2. The Boulder of _____.

(Luke 3:11 NIV) *John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."*

(Luke 3:12-13 NIV) *Tax collectors also came to be baptized.*

"Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" {13} "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

(Luke 3:14 NIV) *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."*

Lesson #2: We smooth the way for Jesus by practicing _____.

3. The Boulder of _____.

(Luke 3:16 NIV) *John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."*

Lesson #3: We smooth the way for Jesus by being _____.

January 1999: _____

