

WELCOME TO STRONGSVILLE: Finding Our Voice

LUKE 3:1-6

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #Strongsville

Influencing Change Takes... a Strong Voice with a Stronger Message:

1. Speak Knowing your Source of **Authority** (1-2).
2. Boldly Call Sinners to **Repent** (3).
3. Alert the faithful to be **Prepared** (4-6).

Luke 3:1-6 (ESV)

“In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. People often neglect the Word of God as the source of their message. They are tempted to use other means and methods. How have you seen this? **Read Psalm 1.** What are some benefits of the word of God in a believer's life?
2. How would you respond to someone who says that because we believe in a "gospel of Grace" you should never call people to repent? Why should we use the call for repentance in evangelism?
3. The bible is clear that false teachers and false (and self-proclaimed) prophets are out there doing the work of Satan to cause confusion and pain to God's sheep. How do we know what a false prophet looks like so that we can spot them and be discern the danger?
4. **Read Acts 26:15-20.** Throughout Luke and Acts, Luke provides us pictures of repentance. What is some evidence of your repentance in a believer's life?
5. This passage ends with God's people being called to live with expectation. **Read 2 Peter 3:10-13.** If the king is coming and we need to set the *geography* of our life in order, what "next steps" do you need to take to *prepare the way of the Lord*?

Quote for the Week. . . by Voddie Baucham



"True repentance is the result of an accurate understanding of the significance and gravity of sin, coupled with an overwhelming desire for the remission of that sin through the person and work of Christ and turning from sin and dead works to faith and obedience."