



DAILY BREAD

FOR THE WEEK STARTING MAY 30, 2010

Message from Pastor Ralph: This is the second week of this venture which we call Daily Bread. May you be fortified as you soak up the Word of God, just as you soak up the bright, shining sun on a summer day.

This week's assigned reading: Luke, chapters 3 and 4.

Comments on the assigned reading:

- Compare the first verses of chapter 3 with the listing of various rulers and religious authorities with the first verses of chapter 2. Clearly, Luke wants to place this story in the context of world history and the history of Israel.
- The first three Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the Synoptic Gospels (synoptic = with one eye, i.e., written with much the same story line). However, there are subtle differences between the stories of the Baptism of Jesus in all three. Can you identify those differences? If so, what differences do they make? Compare Luke 3:21-22 with Matthew 3:13-17 and Mark 1:9-11.
- After Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he began his ministry in Galilee. Luke 4:16-30 is called his inaugural sermon. Theologian David Bosch also names this same sermon as The Great Commission according to Luke. How does this framing of Jesus' mission differ from what we traditionally call The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20?

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. John the Baptist preached that we should "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (3:8). Notice the list of examples he gives in 3:10-14. It is a radical list. What could be examples of the fruits worthy of repentance for us today?
2. Even his first sermon in Nazareth, Jesus got into trouble because of his preaching (4:21-30). In fact, the text says that "all in the synagogue were filled with rage" (4:28). What did Jesus say that got him in so much hot water? When was the last time you heard a sermon that made you angry?

Suggestions for prayer:

- For the family and friends of Dan Forsyth.
- For the sacrifices made by so many to keep our country free.
- For the safety of all those traveling and having fun over the Memorial Day weekend.