

**The Gospel of Luke: *A Voice in the Wild***

Speaker: Dave Solmes

Read: Luke 3:1-20

**Introduction:** Get ready for a shake up! This is what we're encountering in Luke's gospel.

Luke says that John is given a "message from God".

**Question:** Have you carried a message from God in your heart?

Money and Generosity (Verses 10-14): One of the first messages we hear about God's Kingdom and God's rule is the value of money. It is as if God was saying early on, you have to get your money moving in the right direction. Rather than building walls and protecting your stuff John asks them to give their stuff away, not to guard it, but give it. John calls them to share what they have with one other another, and not to take advantage of one another when they have the chance.

**Question:** Why is it important to consider the value we place on money and to pay close attention to the direction our money goes?

The questions John is asking is from the onset as He makes way for Jesus are:

*Whose side are you on?*

*Are you in or are you out?*

*You've got to choose who you want to rule you.*

**Question:** Why are these good questions all day, every day?

**Takeaways?** As we continue to walk with Luke along in his commentary ... we begin to realize just how many pretenders (false gods) there are that surrounded us; How many thrones are piled up around us and even within us. just as they were in John and Jesus' time these pretenders (false gods) will happily rule us if left unchecked, and their example and messages are numerous in our day and age. These pretenders (false gods) tell us that life is all about achievement and productivity, and that our worth and purpose hinge on getting ahead and staying ahead; We had better get on with doing something sparkly or impressive with our lives. These pretenders (false gods) tell us there's nothing wrong with only ever looking out for number one, and lure us toward pride, greed, lust, and selfishness. The pretenders (false gods) keep us anxious and afraid of the future because control of tomorrow is to be in our hands – Not GOD'S.

**Question:** How do we spot a false god?

**Conclusion:** This is exactly where the “good news” comes in. That’s why a real shake perhaps could be music to our ears. And the “good news” is that we can admit we need help, need to be rescued, stop pretending, lay our lives down. The Good News is that: Jesus stands among us in the crowd. He moves into our lives + neighbourhood. Jesus, who didn’t / and doesn’t isolate himself from our pain and suffering and death, but was Himself baptized into it all, and came out the other side in victory, bringing us with him if we let him.

**Challenge:** Luke 3 asks us to face up to the pretenders around us, even the pretender staring back at us in the mirror. It begins with welcoming a real shake up, and then welcoming it daily.