



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

John Remained Faithful

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke is writing to Theophilus so the he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke communicates eyewitness accounts and carefully researches all that has been taught and handed down about Jesus (1:1-4). Additionally, Luke lays the ground work and carefully shares key secular events that provide historical and prophetic perspective. In the first several verses of chapter three Luke provide a dateline by communicating that Tiberius Caesar was in the fifteenth year of his reign (A.D. 25-26), Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod (Antipas) was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea and his brother Philip was tetrarch of Ituraea and Trachonitis. Two of these men would be directly involved in the death of John the Baptist and two would be directly involved in the death of Jesus. John would be great in the sight of the Lord, filled with the Holy Spirit, turning many of the sons of Israel back to God and be a forerunner before Him, Jesus, to make ready those prepared for the Lord (Lk 1:15-17). While John was the last prophet of the OT and a subject of prophecy (Is 40:3-5), he never compromised the gospel that he was chosen by God to carry to the people.

“So with many other exhortations he preached the gospel to the people. But when Herod the tetrarch was reprimanded by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the wicked things which Herod had done, Herod also added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.” (Luke 3:18-20 NASB)

John the Baptist Warned the People. (3:18) John exhorted, warned, declared or strongly urged people to repent, for the Messiah was at hand. John was a faithful witness and never compromised the message that was charged to him by God. What was that message?

John the Baptist Preached the Gospel. (3:18) John proclaims or heralds the gospel message: the good news, the glad tidings that the Messiah is coming for all. John, in proclaiming this gospel of repentance to all, he challenged and called the highest leaders in Israel to repent.

John the Baptist Reprimanded Herod. (3:19) Herod was a tetrarch, a Roman official. Tetrarchs were regional princes who were not deemed important enough to be called kings. John publically and formally expressed disapproval and reprimanded Herod the tetrarch for the violation of the law (Lv 18:16) through the incestuous taking of Herodias, the wife of Philip his brother and daughter of another brother. John was a faithful witness and he didn’t compromise the truth to a pauper or a king. John paid the ultimate price for his faithful witness for God.

John the Baptist was Persecuted. (3:20) Persecuted (*Gk diogmos*) is to inflict suffering, injury, or death on another because of their belief. John was persecuted because he preached the Word (Mk 4:17) John, the righteous, was persecuted by the unrighteous, Herod. John could have compromised his message and saved his life, however he was a faithful witness and boldly declared God’s truth without favor or fear.

For Your Consideration:

- Are you faithful to the calling God has for you?
- Do you compromise your message of the gospel, the good news?
- Do you declare God’s word without favor or fear?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44