

THE JESUS SCANDALS

Part 3: *The Unorthodox Announcer*

Introduction - Waiting For God

Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5-6

- *THE SADDUCEES* = Pleasing God through _____ sacrifices.
- *THE ESSENES* = Pleasing God by rejecting _____.
- *THE ZEALOTS* = Pleasing God by _____ the bad guys.
- *THE PHARISEES* = Pleasing God through Torah _____.

Scandals In A River

Matthew 3

SCANDAL #1: Religious leaders denounced as _____.

Genesis 3; John 8:44

SCANDAL #2: A _____, _____ baptism for _____.

Purity Baptism...

Leviticus 15
Matthew 15 & Mark 7

Proselyte baptism...

SCANDAL #3: Forgiving sins without a _____. (Mark 1:4)

SCANDAL #4: Jesus is _____!

John 8:46; 1 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 3:5
Isaiah 53:12; 11:1-5

Scandal #5: The announcer has _____.

Matthew 11:2-6

EXCURSUS: *THE DOVE FROM ABOVE* – JESUS & THE SPIRIT
Isaiah 11:2; 42:1;
Mark 1:10; Isaiah 64:1
Acts 10:38

Conclusion - Our Hidden Destiny

Luke 1:17; Matthew 11:14; 17:10-13
John 1:21

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, perturbed, perplexed, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Read Luke's account of the Baptism of Jesus in Luke 3:1-22.
- a) What do **verses 1-2** tell us about Luke's commitment to being historically accurate? b) In **verses 4-6** Luke is quoting **Isaiah 40:3-5** (read it). Who is Isaiah clearly referring to (see **verse 3**)? What does this tell us about what John believes about Jesus? c) Was John calling everyone who came to him a "brood of vipers" (**verse 7**)? How does Matthew's account help clarify this? d) The Jews thought their ethnic and religious heritage was their assurance of God's salvation (see **verse 8**). What are some things that people today wrongly assume make them qualify for salvation? e) To join the Essene community (the ancient authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls), converts would need to leave society, denounce any possessions, and live in a commune. What evidence is there in this passage that Christ-followers are meant to live out their Kingdom life *within* society?

SO WHAT?...

3. Now it's time to get uncomfortable... a) How can and should we honestly, with integrity, obey the teaching of **verse 11** as well as the last line of **verse 14** today in our context? b) What is one thing you personally need to do to better align your life with this teaching? c) Pray for each other.

Bruxy Cavey @ The Meeting House - Sunday, July 07, 2002