

And All Flesh Shall See

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 3:1-6

→ “and all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (v. 6).



Big Idea

All humanity has been given a way to see the salvation of God by repenting of their sin and receiving of God’s forgiveness made available to them through the cross of Christ.

(1) *Who Will See?* (vv. 1-2a)

As Luke sets out to record “the things that have been accomplished among us [by Christ]” (1:1), he is concerned with more than mere *historical accuracy*. He is concerned especially with the *universal relevancy* of it all. Here is the reason for such an extensive list of Roman leaders—leaders in the Gentile world—combined with the 2 uppermost leaders in the Jewish world.

Such a move is in contradistinction from the other gospel writers. As one commentator notes: “Matt[hew], Mark, and John introduce Jesus in the context of provincial Jewish messianic expectations; Luke introduces the gospel in the context of world history” (Edwards, PNTC). And this leaves us with a clear inference: The Messiah, whether of Jewish root or not, is bringing the fruit of salvation, not only to the Jews, but to the entire world!

(2) *How Will We See?* (vv. 2b-5)

It must strike us that this is how God breaks the silence. This is His first official word to us in over 400 years: “Repent.” It is not a word we so much like. For it’s a call to change our minds. A call to turn around. It’s a call for us to say we’re sorry, that we’re not right. And we hate that.

But it is a word brimming with mercy. It is a word of second chances. It is a word of ready forgiveness. It’s a word that at once brings us to face God as both holy Judge and gracious Father. God’s call to repentance presupposes His promise of forgiveness. Turn and live!

The process of repentance and forgiveness, then, is all about catching a glimpse of the King! And the indication is that without repentance and receiving His forgiveness, there are things in the way, things blocking our view. We cannot simultaneously harbor sin in our hearts and see Him clearly with our eyes.

(3) *What Will We See?* (v. 6)

The way has been prepared, the King has arrived, and we see Him, but what we watch Him do will scandalize us. For the King doesn’t walk the way up to a throne, He is nailed to a cross. God predestined such horrible things for His Son because He promised repentance for the forgiveness of sins to us!



Critical Action

O brothers and sisters, if we want to see God, let us abide by the cross of Christ and make a holy habit of both repenting of our sin and receiving of His forgiveness!

Reflection Questions

- Have you learned to tell the story of Christ in the language of the world? Give an example. What do Presence, Opportunism, and Courage mean to you?
- What is repentance? If you’re already a Christian, why do you still need to make a habit of it? Are there things in your life that are blocking your vision of Christ? What should you do?
- Has God ever taken you to the wilderness to speak tenderly to you? Has He ever used trials to bring you close? Explain.

