

Study Notes for Sunday 9th. January 2022

1. **Read Luke 3:1 – 22.** From what we read about John the Baptist, how well do you think he is fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy? What sort of problems did he have to face in his time?
2. John was obviously able to draw crowds. What sort of people were asking his advice and how do you think that they would respond?
3. What was John's answer to their unspoken question? How do you think that they would have reacted to it? How do we react?
4. **Read Matthew 3:13 -17; Mark 1:9 -11; John 1:29 – 34.** What do you think God's purposes were in getting John to baptize Jesus?
5. God declares Himself to be "well pleased" with His Son. What do you think He meant by this remark?
6. **Read Isaiah 43:1 – 7.** What sort of God is Isaiah describing? Does He bear much resemblance to the Messiah that the Jews were expecting in Jesus' days on earth? If not – what are the differences?
7. Can you recall any times recorded in the Old Testament when God actually did save His people in the ways described in this passage – passing through waters, rivers and fire?
8. Remembering that Isaiah is writing at the time of the Jew's exile what is the significance of the ransom God is prepared to pay for their return? Has God paid this ransom? If so – when and how?
9. What do you think that we should be doing as a Christian community to remind people what God is really like and what He has already done for us through Jesus?