

## **IS THAT GOOD NEWS?**

### **SCCC**

#### **S – Scriptures**

“And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news (εὐηγγελίζετο - euēngelizeto) to them. Luke 3: 18

#### **C – Consideration**

Reading the third chapter of Luke, about half of it, is dedicated to the ministry of John, the Baptist. The writer gives a detailed account of John’s sermon. The words of the prophet were: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves: ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” Concerning the Messiah, he said: “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” He also told the crowd to share their goods with the poor, not to steal or falsely accuse others. Even with these strong rebukes and tough words, verse eighteen tells us that he was preaching “good news”. I had found in the Greek text the word Luke used “euēngelizeto” which means to preach good news or to preach the gospel. However, as the account goes on, the good news that John proclaimed was not well-received by some people. King Herod put him in jail and days after, he beheaded John.

#### **C – Commitment**

What is the meaning of Good News on a humanistic level? In a dictionary, I had found this definition: someone or something that is positive, encouraging, uplifting, desirable, or the like. In my generation, John’s sermon would be considered bigotry, hatred speech, and judgmental behavior, which might take the preacher to court or even to prison. I have to learn with John, that preaching the truth might hurt people’s feelings; however, it is good news. Unrepentant sinners will go to hell. Yet, how would they repent, if I don’t tell them? How would they take the medicine, unless they understand that they are dying? The writer of Proverbs wrote these words “Better an open rebuke than love that is concealed. The wounds of a friend are faithful, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

#### **C – Call**

My Heavenly Father, thank you for these truths that came into my heart today. Lord, I know that John did not please people, he was fulfilling his assignment, he was preaching because he saw that without repentance people would end up in hell. My God, I pray to be truthful to my neighbors, and to announce the good news. To make sure they understand they are sinner,

and if they don't repent there is nothing that can help them. Once they see this reality, the blood of Jesus will take their sins away and bring them to Glory, in Jesus' name. Amen.