N. Dec. UMC
1983

Intro. 1. Grateful + honored. 1st time.
2. Speak from Lk.
3. Begin at beginning.

I The Beginning not Jesus but John Bapt.
1. all Gospels agree.
a) Mk. - 1:1
b) Matt. - Preach. of Jn.
c) Lk. - 2 birth stories.
d) Jn. - 1:19.
2. Testify to immense popularity.
a) Crowds.
b) Are you the Christ.
c) Followers or 3 centuries by 50 A.D.
3. Came from all walks.
Poor, rich, soldiers, businessmen, clergy.

II Acc't for Popularity.
1. Dress?
2. Rough?
3. Messiah coming?
4. Spec'd moment of truth.
a) when and where, comparing, advising, strengthening, keenness, generality of guilt.
b) Quiet a communion.
c) at edge.
d) Singlepied.
e) Prompted by many things - rich ruler?

III Moment of Truth - Before God.
1. From crit. all life.
2. Disguised often.
3. Not brought here by
a) Views of nature.
b) Inward reflection.
4. But preaching Wd.
a) Judge.
b) Promises.
5. Come Confronted - - - - -
What am I to do?