

**I. Warning - Luke 3:7-9**

1. John went to the deserted areas to minister - the people came out to him (**verse 7**)
    - to be baptized - “immerse”
  2. Motives as they came
    - sincere
    - those who wanted to be in on the spectacle
  3. Called them a “generation of vipers”
    - who warned you?
    - baptism without repentance?
  4. Repentance: (**verse 8**)
    - A. Bring fruits that go with true repentance
    - Rea B. Today many want their “names on the role” - is there true repentance?
      - do preachers ask for repentance today?
      - do they demand repentance as John did?
    - C. John wanted to see “fruit”
    - Rea -no amount of water can wash away sins
  5. Don’t say Abraham is our father
    - God could raise up rocks as sons of Abraham
    - Rea -they trusted in their lineage to get them on the good side of God
  6. The axe is laid to the root (**verse 9**)
    - God’s judgment
    - without fruit a tree is cut down and cast into the fire
    - Rea -the axe and fire are symbols of judgment
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Discuss what constitutes true repentance?
  2. Does the fact that the altar call (invitation) is disappearing mean anything about what we expect of people at our local churches?
  3. Do you or your congregation even use the word “repentance” any more? - what does it mean if we don’t? - do we think that it’s not necessary? - do we think that we don’t sin any more?
  4. Jesus taught us to pray “forgive us this day our daily debts” - a model prayer, that deals with daily sins

**II. Response - Luke 3:10-14**

1. What shall we do? (**Verse 10**)
  - sometimes the crowd does not understand what it is they must do
  - the *people* came
2. John’s answer: (**verse 11**)
  - A. A man with two coats should share with the person who has none
  - B. The man who has food should share with a person who has none
  - C. A tangible response to the call for repentance
  - Rea -“fruit” is tangible - it is only fair that people would be able to tell if we are following Jesus
3. The *publicans* came (**verse 12**)

- A. Same question - what shall we do?
- B. Came to be baptized
- C. Exact no more than you're appointed (**verse 13**)
  - publicans could take more taxes than actually owed and pocket the

money

Rea 

- a clever way to steal

4. The **soldiers** came (**verse 14**)

- A. Same question - what shall we do?
- B. Do violence to no man

Rea 

- for the soldier violence was a way of life

- C. Accuse no one false
  - to get a bribe

- D. Be content with your wages

5. Repentance is demonstrated through godly living

Rea 

- repentance can be "seen"

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. If such were enacted at a local church the members would say we expecting people to "prove" that they have changed
2. At issue - shouldn't there be a change if we truly repent?
  - is repentance visible?
  - shouldn't we ask/ expect folk to change?
3. All the repentance should not be expected of those entering the church - the membership should be constantly changing - being transformed

**III. Division - Luke 3:15-18**

1. "Expectation" - is this the Christ? (**Verse 15**)

Rea 

- obviously John is causing quite a stir

Rea 

- a true prophet often doesn't last very long. A preacher who asks his congregation to repent won't last long either.

2. His answer to their musings (**verse 16**)

- A. I baptize with water - He will baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire
- B. One mightier cometh

Rea 

- C. John is very clear about his own place (identity) and role
  - any person right with God knows his place

3. Baptize with Holy Ghost (salvation)

- and with fire (judgment)
- two separate experiences not one experience with two aspects

Rea 

- 4. "Fire" and "Holy Ghost" go together

- we used to sing - "set my soul afire" - as in Pentecost
- they even saw fire - "cloven tongues of fire"

5. His fan is in His hand (**verse 17**)

- a form of separating grain from the chaff
- the fan tosses the grain into the air so that the chaff is blown away and the grain falls to the ground

Rea 

- the idea is separation - separating the good grain, from the worthless chaff. All judgment involves separation - the good from the bad.

- the “fire” is the end of judgment
- Rea 6. Fire
- the trial of our faith as by fire - burn away the dross
  - the fires of hell - ultimate judgement
7. He preached many other things (**verse 18**)
- Rea -lets us know that these are simply examples of true repentance
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. What about this? - no change, then no repentance
  2. Is repentance necessary to be saved? - or is just “receiving Jesus?”
  3. Why do you think we rarely hear a sermon on repentance?
    - do you think that rank and file church members need to repent?
    - we don’t have revivals much any more. Why is that? Do we not “need”  
reviving?
  4. Some see John as the last prophet, fitting seeing he is the introducer of the Messiah
    - “behold the lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world”

Jere Phillips/ SS Lesson for 1-10-21