

## Luke 3 pt 2

### Luke 3: 7-14

Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?<sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.<sup>9</sup> And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?"

<sup>11</sup> He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

<sup>12</sup> Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"

<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."

<sup>14</sup> Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?"

So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

1. John the Baptist is one of the most unique people in scripture
  - a. He lives in the wilderness
  - b. He wears camels hair for clothing
  - c. He eats wild honey and locusts
  - d. He's a picture of an Old Testament prophet who is against the religious system of his day

e. His name = Jehovah is a gracious giver

f. He's about to give his hearers the best gift; The Truth

2. His message began with Comfort, crossing and clarity which is foundational

a. God created us in His image

b. He said, it is very good

c. Man lived in harmony with his creator

d. But something happened when man decided to doubt God and walk away

e. Sin entered the picture

f. All of humanity is now under the weight of sin

g. **Psalm 51:5** Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

h. Paul takes the first 3 chapters of Romans to explain to us that all people are sinners

- i. Since the gospel is known as the good news, there must be bad news.
    - i. All peoples have walked away from God and need to repent
  - j. It's with this dark backdrop that the light of the gospel will shine
  - k. Without understanding this, the gospel gets lost as it's lost among many church goers today
3. While the opening passage is about the comfort of God, this passage is the other side of the coin and shows my response
- a. I phrase it as my response because each of us needs to take ownership of the fact that each of us are sinners
  - b. This is the key that unlocks John's message
  - c. His job is to prepare the road before the King
    - i. The road being prepared is not a dirt road
    - ii. The road our king is ready to travel to is the heart of every believer

iii. This is God's kingdom

1. **Luke 17:21** The kingdom of God is within you

iv. This is where God takes up residence and sits on the throne

4. John here is a picture of what the Holy Spirit does to prepare me before accepting Jesus

a. **John 16:8** And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.

5. Since we are all sinners:

a. Judgment is coming

i. It's imminent

b. Repent or face the consequences

i. Evidence of repentance is a must

6. Why did people travel 20 - 30 miles on foot to hear him in the desert where temps reached 120 plus?

- a. It's been 400 years since God sent a prophet to speak, people are hungry for God and His truth
  - ii. By virtue of them being there, they must have been hungry for truth which comes from God's Word
- b. Also because John was a man of conviction and anointed by God
  - i. David Hume, 18th century British philosopher who rejected historic Christianity, once met a friend hurrying along a London street and asked where he was going. The friend said he was off to hear George Whitfield preach. "But surely you don't believe what Whitfield preaches do you?" "No, I don't, but he does."
  - ii. "Set a man on fire and people will come to watch him burn"  
—C.H. Spurgeon

7. While John himself was on fire for God and burning with passion for people to live right, I picture him like a firefighter who's warning people that the building is on fire and there is danger

- a. He's aiming to instill truth & conviction in his audience

b. **Danger lies ahead**

c. without conviction, there can be no conversion (**Wiersbe**)

8. John's message highlights 2 elements

I. **Acknowledgment** & Apprehension

a. Acknowledgment of our true condition

i. Our condition is that I have missed the mark

ii. Acknowledging this will result in repentance or rejection

iii. Repentance by way of internal sorrow that results in turning

iv. A genuine repentance that produces fruit - evidence

1. You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

2. John calls them brood of vipers

- a. The reason for such severity was that, while wishing to escape the impending judgment, the people were unwilling to forsake their sins
- b. This is not a very inviting message
- c. He's calling them sons of snakes
  - i. Since God cursed the snake in the garden, John is saying "you are the sons of the devil"

### **3. How can we know if John is addressing us?**

- a. If I'm living a lie, concealing the truth in my life...
  - i. If I'm putting on a facade of holiness when the truth is the opposite of that
  - ii. You enjoy doing things in the dark.
    - 1. You have a private life different than your public life
- b. If I'm picking a choosing which part of God's Word I'll obey and follow...

- i. I like the blessings of God and mercy of God, but not the forgiveness part; or the being faithful in my tithes part
    - c. You look to hide from the judgment of God but have no intent on changing your ways...
      - i. If my life is focused on me and not on God...
- 4. John is giving a confrontational message that doesn't give room for options
  - a. Those who refuse to repent of their sins will perish
- 5. He anticipates some of the responses and says "Do not say that we have Abraham as our father"
  - a. Jews believed their heritage of Judaism gave them automatic righteousness with God
    - i. You cannot rely on your heritage
    - ii. You cannot rely on the faith of your relatives
    - iii. Your parent's faith will not save you



- iv. The family you belong to will not save you
6. The day is coming and quickly when the ax is laid to the root
- a. Symbolizing the end of one's life with judgment
  - b. There must be evidence of the repentance

## II. **Apprehension** of the end result

- 1. Understanding / grasp what true repentance looks like and it's fruit
  - a. Understand that you don't have it within you to do it
  - b. You need the mercy of God to help you repent and live right
- 2. What shall we do then?
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> sign of repentance
    - i. To realize there is a role for us
  - b. The word that John employed to call the Jews to Repentance indicates a change of mind and heart.

i. **(Metanao) Change of mind / direction**

3. Eric Sauer : "Repentance is a threefold action.

a. In the understanding, it means knowledge of sin.

b. In the feelings, it means pain and grief.

c. And in the will, it means a change of mind," end quote.

4. **All 3 need to be there.**

5. **Just as it is with Faith:**

a. **Knowledge** – An understanding, perception, discernment

b. **Assent** – Agreement, concurrence, compliance

c. **Affiance** – Pledging by promise of marriage

i. **Not simply knowing about it or agreeing with it.**

ii. **Taking the truth of God's word as my own.**

d. A person fallen overboard understanding, and even agreeing to the life raft needs to embrace the raft as his own

6. **Repentance:**

**a. Intellectual acknowledgment of sin; Psalm 51:3** "For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

**b. Is the emotional response to the sin**

**i. Psalm 32:3** When I kept silent, my bones grew old  
Through my groaning all the day long.<sup>4</sup> For day and night  
Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into  
the drought of summer

ii. Remorse over our wayward deceptive ways

iii. Remorse over presumption that our heritage has anything  
to do with it

iv. True repentance involves sorrow for the sinfulness of sin  
(not merely a regret of its consequences),

1. Regret alone is not repentance:

a. Pharaoh was sorry

b. Saul was sorrowful

c. Rich young ruler was sorry

d. Judah was sorry

**e. None of them had true repentance**

### c. Is the act of the will to change the mind and turn around

7. **Patrick Morley:** the church's integrity problem is in the misconception "that we can add Christ to our lives, but not subtract sin. It is a change in belief without a change in behavior
8. **Psalm 53:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me...
9. **Illustration:** When I was in South Africa, a fine, handsome Dutchman came into my service, and God laid His hand on him and convicted him of sin. The next morning he went to the beautiful home of another Dutchman and said to him, "Do you recognize that old watch?"  
"Why, yes," answered the other. "Those are my initials; that is my watch. I lost it eight years ago. How did you get it, and how long have you had it?"  
"I stole it," was the reply.  
"What made you bring it back now?"  
"I was converted last night," was the answer, "and I have brought it back first thing this morning. If you had been up, I would have brought it last night."

10. Repentance is less about being sorry and more about developing a hatred for anything that is not pleasing to God.

11. Is there evidence in my life verifying my repentance?

12. What shall we do?

a. He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none...

i. Loving your neighbor as yourself by sharing what you have

ii. If my neighbor is hungry, cold, I'm to share with them

**iii. Meaning I'm to put others before me**

iv. Not possible to do this continually with my old nature

b. Tax collectors – be honest in your dealings – be truthful

i. When no one is watching, be honest

ii. Not possible

c. Soldiers – extortion, slander, contentment

i. Don't intimidate people

ii. Not possible of himself

13. This is the point of the lesson

- a. After the conviction of sin and feeling the pain, we don't have the power to change
- b. This is where the beauty of Christ comes in
- c. That's where John leaves us at the feet of Jesus
- d. He:
  - i. He gives me a new nature
  - ii. He removes the actual sin
  - iii. He gives me the desire & power to live it

14. There are 3 possible responses to a message like Johns

- a. Some will be offended and walk away without any repentance
- b. Some will have a superficial facade of repentance
- c. Some will truly repent and realize the sinfulness of their own hearts and turn to God asking for a new heart and a clean conscience through the blood of Christ (**Cole**)