

Luke 3 pt 3

Luke 3: 15-20

¹⁵ Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ *or* not, ¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, "I indeed **baptize you with water**; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will **baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire**. ¹⁷ His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, ²⁰ also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.

1. John the Baptist appears on the scene and preaches
 - a. Comfort, crossing, clarity
 - i. Comfort is where the good news starts
 1. God is good, kind, compassionate, not wanting any to perish
 - ii. Crossing is the symbolic location of Joshua entering Canaan
 - iii. Clarity is the apprehension of the truth - change is a must
 1. That's the truth of the gospel
 2. Jesus didn't come to add to our lives

3. He came to take away our old sin nature and give us a new heavenly nature

b. John's message is so strong, it prompts a response from his audience

i. Acknowledgement of their sins - We're all guilty before God

ii. The religious of his day didn't like that

iii. Herod certainly did not like it

1. His ministry touched so many people that many wondered if he was the Messiah

a. His audience was expecting the Christ

b. John's reply was I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire

i. John said he was not even worthy enough to be Jesus' house slave

c. John clearly said, I am not the messiah; my role is to:

i. To prepare the people for Messiah's arrival

1. John [preached] a message...of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. If one is to have a relationship with God, if one is to receive the blessings the Messiah brings, sin must be forgiven. If one is to receive forgiveness, there must be repentance. The note of John's great preaching was repentance. That's how he prepared people for Messiah and His arrival...
(McArthur)

ii. To identify the Messiah to the people

1. His role was to point out Jesus
 - a. Not give people more things to do
2. John's message is Jesus
3. The gospel is not good news apart from our Lord
 - a. Our Lord Himself is the good news
 - b. He is salvation
 - i. I am the bread of Life (John 6:35)
 - ii. I am the light of the world (John 8:12)
 - iii. I am the door (John 10:9)
 - iv. I am the good shepherd (John 10:11)

- v. I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-26)
- vi. I am the way, truth and life (John 14:6)
- vii. I am the vine (John 15:5)

4. **The message is clear**

- a. Salvation is not found in formulas or in religion
- b. Salvation is found in the person of Jesus
- c. To know Him personally
- d. **John 17:3** And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

2. **In preparing people for Jesus, John mentions 2 Baptisms**

- a. Baptism of Water
- b. Baptism of the Holy Spirit

3. **What is the baptism of water?**

- a. It's a symbol of burial with our lord;

- b. We are baptized into His death on the cross and no longer slaves to self or sin
- c. It's where a person makes a public declaration of
 - i. His guilt of sin
 - ii. A declaration of his repentance of sin and turning to God
- d. **The baptism of water is one of repentance**
- e. **Mark 16:16** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
 - i. When we're raised out of the water, are symbolically resurrected - raised to new life in Christ
 - 1. To be with Him forever, born into the family of our loving God
 - ii. The Ethiopian eunuch wanted to get baptized after Philip told him about Jesus
 - iii. **Acts 8:34** So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of

some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."

- iv. A true believer wants to make this profession public
- v. Some like to keep their faith private
- vi. Imagine a bride telling her groom, I don't want others to know about our marriage - its private
 - 1. That's not a healthy relationship
 - 2. A healthy relationship is standing publically before all and make your vows
- vii. **Matthew 28:19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen

viii. For anyone who has not been publically baptized after faith, you have been advised

4. **What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

a. While the baptism of water is for the repentance

b. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for transformation

c. The disciples were believers

i. As they left all and followed Jesus, they believed in Christ

ii. They confessed He is the Christ, the Son of God...

iii. But they were missing the life transforming power to:

1. Live out their faith daily especially during hard times

2. Proclaim their faith and fulfill the great commission

iv. God already made provisions for this long before

v. Before John is imprisoned and beheaded by Herod, he spoke of the coming baptism of the Holy Spirit

- vi. This was promised in the O.T

- vii. **Ezekiel 39:29** And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord God."

- viii. **Joel 2:28** "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.
²⁹ And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

- ix. The pouring out of God's Spirit, or the infilling of God's Spirit is a gift for all believers

- x. **Acts 1:4** And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "**which,**" *He said,* "**you have heard from Me;** ⁵ **for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**" ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ And He said to them,

“It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

xi. Those same disciples who were afraid became as bold as lions and preached Jesus

5. Being filled means I just don't have the Spirit of God, but He has me

6. While John baptized in Water, Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit

7. He baptizes with the Holy Spirit and Fire

a. This fire serves 2 purposes

i. For the believer, it will purge out the unclean thing

1. Like when gold is placed in the fire and dross is removed

2. The more the filth is removed, the more God can use me

ii. For unbelievers, the fire is the judgment of God

b. Winnowing is an analogy of judgment

i. Separating the wheat from the chaff

ii. There is no reason to do so unless they are both together in the same place

1. If the wheat was alone and the chaff, alone, than this is unnecessary

2. Since they are together, this process separates what is otherwise inseparable

iii. The chaff is good for nothing and is burned; the wheat is kept

iv. The chaff will burn with unquenchable fire

v. That's why Jesus went to an extreme to show His love for us in taking our place

8. Some may say, I'd like to be filled with the Holy Spirit, what do I need to do?

1. **Thirst, ask, obey, believe**

- i. God only fills those who are thirsty
- ii. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst...
- iii. I recall being thirsty during football training
- iv. **John 7:37** On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit
- v. Thirsting for God, not His gifts & blessings
- vi. God Himself will lead you there
- vii. Just as God led the Israelites to the place without water, He'll lead us the same way (Ex 17 Rephadim; rest)
- viii. It's the place where no matter what you do, there is something missing

- ix. Just as natural thirst is a God given thing to help us from dehydrating, this spiritual thirst is also from God to keep us from dehydrating spiritually

2. **Ask:**

- i. You ask God for this filling because He wants you to be filled
- ii. **Luke 11:13** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
- iii. We ask God because it was promised to the believers
- iv. **Acts 2:33** Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear
- v. **Acts 2:39** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
- vi. God will not give to those who don't want it

3. **Obey:**

- i. **Acts 5:32** And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”
- ii. Spirit filled life is the life of obedience and a longing to follow God’s divine will
- iii. (**Chuck Swindoll**) Imagine, if you will, that you work for a company whose president found it necessary to travel out of the country and spend an extended period of time abroad. So he says to you and the other trusted employees, "Look, I'm going to leave. And while I'm gone, I want you to pay close attention to the business. You manage things while I'm away. I will write you regularly. When I do, I will instruct you in what you should do from now until I return from this trip." Everyone agrees. He leaves and stays gone for a couple of years. During that time he writes often, communicating his desires and concerns. Finally he returns. He walks up to the front door of the company and immediately discovers everything is in a mess--weeds flourishing in the flower beds, windows broken across the front of the building, the gal at the front

desk dozing, loud music roaring from several offices, two or three people engaged in horseplay in the back room.

Instead of making a profit, the business has suffered a great loss. Without hesitation he calls everyone together and with a frown asks, "What happened? Didn't you get my letters?"

You say, "Oh, yeah, sure. We got all your letters. We've even bound them in a book. And some of us have memorized them. In fact, we have 'letter study' every Sunday. You know, those were really great letters." I think the president would then ask, "But what did you do about my instructions?" And, no doubt the employees would respond, "Do? Well, nothing. But we read every one!"

- iv. Being willing to obey the Lord indicates my love for Him
- v. There may be some things that God is directing me to take care of
 - 1. To be filled, I must obey God in making things right

4. **Believe / Faith:**

- i. John 7:37 On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let

him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive

- ii. And here we come to an important key to accept the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is filling the faith,

2. Faith is always divine condition for receiving the promises

- vi. Having Jesus live in me is enough to get me to heaven, but having the infilling brings heaven to me
- iii. **Heb 11:33** who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
- iv. I'm not putting my faith in a experience
- v. I'm placing my faith in the Person of Christ
- vi. God longs to fill us with his Spirit and for us to be faithful witnesses to him,

vii. But many times do not believe it so easy for God to give us a gift we don't deserve

viii. It's free grace that gave us forgiveness of sins and new life

ix. It's the same grace that grants us the gift of the Holy Spirit

1. So first we:

a. Thirst

b. Ask

c. Obey

d. Believe

x. **Acts 2: 37** Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."