

The Gospel According To LUKE

Chapter 3

“What Shall We Do?”

I) John the Baptist - “Just do it!” (v1-6)

> **Do what? (1) Listen to the call of God from His Word! (2) Be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer only!**

> **John’s message- “baptism of repentance for the remission of sins” - Repentance defined (3 points):**

(1) The Intellectual Element: Repentance is that change of a sinner’s mind which leads him to turn from his evil ways and live. The change wrought in repentance is so deep and radical as to affect the whole spiritual nature and to involve the entire personality. **(2) The Emotional Element:** There may be knowledge of sin without turning from it as an awful thing which dishonors God and ruins man. An emotional element is necessarily involved in repentance. While feeling is not the equivalent of repentance, it nevertheless may be a powerful impulse to a genuine turning from sin. There must be a consciousness of sin in its effect on man and in its relation to God before there can be a hearty turning away from unrighteousness. The feeling naturally accompanying repentance implies a conviction of personal sin and sinfulness and an earnest appeal to God to forgive according to His mercy. **(3) The Volitional Element:** The demand for repentance implies free will and individual responsibility. That men are called upon to repent there can be no doubt, and that God is represented as taking the initiative in repentance is equally clear. There can be no external substitute for the internal change. Sackcloth for the body and remorse for the soul are not to be confused with a determined abandonment of sin and return to God. Not material sacrifice, but a spiritual change, is the inexorable demand of God. When one repents there’s a consciousness of spiritual poverty dethroning pride, a sense of personal unworthiness producing grief, a willingness to surrender to God in genuine humility, and a strong spiritual desire developing into hunger and thirst, enter into the experience of one who wholly abandons sin and heartily turns to Him who grants repentance unto life. (*Psalms 51 is an excellent example of a prayer of repentance.*) (Definition taken from the International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia.)

(v4-6) John’s mission - A voice in the wilderness of sin (Proclaim- Jesus!)

- **To prepare the way of the LORD** (Prepare- Live for Jesus!)

- **Make His paths straight** (Pathway- One way- Jesus!)

- **Salvation to the whole world** (Personal- Jesus loves you!)

(Read the call of Paul the Apostle in Acts 26:12-18)

II) Religious Leaders - “Start doing it!” (v7-11)

> According to Matthew 3:7 this “brood of vipers” is the Pharisees & Sadducees. What is bearing fruit worthy of repentance? **Reference: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:16-26.**

III) Government Officials - “Stop doing it!” (v12-13)

This would be taxation without representation. **Good** within government will erode the public trust and create a revolution. **James Madison**, chief architect of the Constitution of the United States, once explained the nature of the American Republic in these words: “We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.” **In 1 Tim 6:10 it says- For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.** (Remember Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10)

IV) Military Soldiers - “Be true to it!” (v14)

John Adams, America’s second president (Commander in Chief), stated, “It must be felt that there is no national security but in the nation’s humble acknowledged dependence upon God and His overruling providence.” **Benjamin Franklin**, a great statesman, proclaimed, “We need God to be our friend not our enemy; we need Him to be our ally, not our adversary; we need to make sure that we keep His concurring aid.” All military must remember it is God and Country!

V) Jesus- "Show us the way!" (v15-22)

(v15) John's ministry: (1) In relation to Jesus - John 3:30- He must increase, but I must decrease. (2) In relation to people- Col 4:6- Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

(v16-20) John the Baptist declares that Jesus will either baptize an individual with the Holy Spirit or with fire; with the Holy Spirit to be "**born again**" (John 3:5); or unbelievers will experience a baptism of judgment in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15).

(v21-22) The Baptism of Jesus unveils His deity, the trinity and the opportunity!

VI) Genealogy of Mary (v23-38)

> **Luke Ch. 3:23-38-** Luke gives us the genealogy of Mary, while in Matthew 1:1-17 we have the genealogy of the foster father Joseph. **Matthew's** genealogy begins with Abraham and comes down to the Lord Jesus Christ through David and through Solomon; this being the **legal title** to the throne. **Luke** goes back to David and then back to Adam. This would be the royal blood of David that flowed through Mary's veins to Jesus and yields **His blood title** to the throne of David. (Interesting side note: Observe the meaning of the names in the first 10 generations: Adam- *Man*, Seth- *Is appointed*; Enosh- *Mortal*; Cainan- *Sorrow*; Mahalalel- *Blessed God*; Jared- *Shall come down*; Enoch- *Teaching*; Methuselah- *His death shall bring*; Lamech- *Despairing*; Noah- *Comfort or Rest*. Put it together for the time of the flood: *Man is appointed mortal sorrow, (but) blessed God shall come down teaching; his death shall bring (the) despairing, comfort or rest.*