



JESUS IS FIRE

LUKE 3:16



January 25, 1987

Rose Bowl - Pasadena, CA





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Proximity $\neq$ Participation



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Luke 3:1 - 18

It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Traconitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene.

Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests.
At this time a message from God came to John
son of Zechariah, who was living in the
wilderness.

Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.

Luke 3:3

Isaiah had spoken of John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!
Clear the road for him!

Luke 3:4

The valleys will be filled, and the mountains
and hills made level.

The curves will be straightened, and the rough
places made smooth.

And then all people will see the salvation sent
from God.””

When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, “You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?”

Luke 3:7

Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones.

Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire."

Luke 3:9

The crowds asked, “What should we do?”

John replied, “If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.”

Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, “Teacher, what should we do?”

He replied, “Collect no more taxes than the government requires.”

“What should we do?” asked some soldiers.

John replied, “Don’t extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay.”

Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah.

John answered their questions by saying,
“I baptize you with water; but someone is
coming soon who is greater than I am - so
much greater that I’m not even worthy to be
his slave and untie the straps of his sandals.

Luke 3:16

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and
with fire.

Luke 3:16

He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

Luke 3:17

John used many such warnings as he
announced the Good News to the people.

Luke 3:18



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Proximity to Participation?

Not the Messenger You Might Expect (v2)

John > High Priests

Not the Way You Might Expect (v3)

Repentance, Forgiveness, Baptism

Not For Who You Might Expect
(v4 - v6)

Low lifted, High chopped, Crooked Straight

Salvation Is Not By Association

(v7 - v9)

Repentance Changes Behavior

(v10 - v14)

Jesus Is 

Jesus Is the Difference Maker

(v15 - v18)

Jesus is the ultimate Difference Maker.

Jesus is the eternal Difference Maker.

Jesus is the personal Difference Maker.



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(1) Let Jesus make a difference in you.

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2

(2) Let Jesus make a difference through you.

“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5:16

Let Jesus change you.
Let Jesus use you.



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Moving from proximity to participation =

Grow in your relationship with Jesus.

Go make a difference in your world.



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