

The Gospel of **LUKE**

Lesson 8 Chapter 3 - Verses 1-14

1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

John's Ministry

Chapter 3, Verses 1-3 - Luke describes the ministry of John the Baptist.

1. John the Baptist started his ministry approximately **29** years after the birth of Jesus, during the rule of Pilate, Herod, and Caesar.
2. John the Baptist's ministry started when John received a **message** from God.
3. John the Baptist's ministry was located in the wilderness country around the Jordan **River**.
4. The ministry of John the Baptist was to **preach** repentance and forgiveness.



Pilate, Herod, and Caiaphas were powerful leaders in Palestine, but they were upstaged by a wilderness **prophet**.



Annas and Caiaphas were the religious leaders of that time, but God **bypassed** them and chose to speak through the loner, John the Baptist.



Greatness is not measured by your name or position but by your **faith** in God. Like John, give yourself entirely to God so God's power can work through you.

“John's baptism introducing a new dispensation, it was requisite that we should have a particular account of it.

Glorious things were said of John, what a distinguished favorite of Heaven he should be, and what a great blessing to this earth; but we lost him in the deserts, and there he remains until the day of his showing unto Israel.

And now at last that day dawns, and a welcome day it was to them that waited for it more than they that waited for the morning.”

M. Henry

John's Message

Chapter 3, Verses 4-6 - The preaching of John the Baptist.

1. John the Baptist's preaching was **prophesied** by Isaiah.
2. John the Baptist told the people to **prepare** for the Lord's coming.
3. John the Baptist told the people to **remove** all obstacles in order to let Jesus come in.
4. John the Baptist told the people that Jesus will **change** everything.
5. John the Baptist told the people that all flesh - both Jews and Gentiles - would see the **salvation** of God.



When a king was going to make a royal visit in those days, elaborate preparations were made to smooth the highways and to make his approach as direct as possible. This is what John called upon the people to do, only it was not a matter of repairing literal roads but of preparing their own hearts to **receive** Him.

Slithering Snakes

Chapter 3, Verses 7-9 - John the Baptist does not hold back in his preaching.

1. When people came out to be baptized by John, he realized that they were not all sincere.
2. John the Baptist called these people snakes.
3. John the Baptist told the people that their repentance needs to be real.
4. John the Baptist told the people that real repentance produces fruit.
5. John the Baptist told the people that just because they were related to Abraham does not make them right with God.
6. John the Baptist told the people that God could make children of Abraham out of rocks.
7. John the Baptist told the people that judgment was coming and that when Jesus comes, He will judge the reality of man's repentance.



Some people wanted to be baptized by John so they could escape eternal punishment, but they were not really repenting from sin nor were they willing to change the way they lived.



Many of John's hearers were shocked when he said that being Abraham's descendants was not enough to ensure salvation. For them, religion was inherited. But a personal relationship with God cannot be handed down from parents to children.



If we really mean business with God, we should show that we have truly repented by manifesting a changed life.

People Asked

Chapter 3, Verses 10-14: - When the people heard John's preaching, they were convicted.

1. The people asked John the Baptist how they can show the sincerity of their repentance.
2. John the Baptist told the people they can prove their sincerity by sharing their clothing and food with the poor.
3. John the Baptist told the tax collectors (Publicans), they can prove their sincerity by being honest in dealing with the people.
4. John the Baptist told the soldiers they can prove their sincerity by not doing violent acts to any person, and by not taking anything doesn't belong to them, and to be satisfied with what they have.



John's message demanded at least three specific responses:

1. Share what you have with those who need it.
2. Whatever your job is, do it well and with fairness.
3. Be content with your earnings.

7 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

*"... the people, the publicans, and the soldiers, who knew that they had done amiss, and that they ought to do better, and were conscious to themselves of great ignorance and unacquaintedness with the divine law, were particularly inquisitive:
What shall we do?"*

M. Henry

15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

18 And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

19 But Herod the tetrarch, being reproved by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,

20 Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.

“John can only baptize with water, but Christ can, and will, baptize with the Holy Ghost; he can give the Spirit to cleanse and purify the heart, as fire purges out the dross that is within, and melts down the metal, that it may be cast into a new mould.”

“John can only preach a distinguishing doctrine, but Christ hath his fan in his hand”

“John can only speak comfort to those that receive the gospel, and, like other prophets, say to the righteous that it shall be well with them; but Jesus Christ will give them the comforter.”

“John can only promise them that they shall be safe; but Christ will make them so: he will gather the wheat into his garner”

M. Henry

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Lesson 9

Chapter 3 - Verses 15-23

John's Answer

Chapter 3, Verses 15-20 - John humbles himself.

1. While John the Baptist was preaching, the people were getting excited and wondering if John was the [Messiah](#).
2. When John the Baptist realized people were thinking that he might be the Messiah, he quickly told them that he was [not](#).
3. John the Baptist told the crowd that he baptizes with [water](#) which is just an outward symbolic ceremony.
4. John the Baptist told the crowd that Jesus is so great, than he is not even good enough to undo Jesus' [shoes](#).
5. John the Baptist told the crowd that when Jesus comes, He will baptize with the Holy Spirit, and with [fire](#) (Judgment)!
6. John the Baptist told the crowd that those who refuse to live for God are like the [chaff](#), the useless outer husk of wheat.
7. John the Baptist told the crowd that those who repent and change their lives are like the [wheat](#).
8. John the Baptist told the crowd that Jesus will come and [separate](#) the wheat from the chaff.
9. John the Baptist told the crowd that Jesus will keep the wheat in His storage [barn](#) and that Jesus will burn the chaff with [fire](#).
10. John the Baptist continued to preach the truth for **18** months until one day John rebuked King Herod for living in an [adulterous](#) relationship with his sister-in-law.
11. King Herod was angry because of John the Baptist's words spoken against him and King Herod had John the Baptist put into [prison](#).



When the people thought that John the Baptist could be the Messiah, John could have used that opportunity to attract a great following, but instead he humbled himself, stepped out of the way and allowed Jesus to get all of the [attention](#).



John the Baptist said that those who refuse to be used by God will be discarded, because they have no value and those who repent and believe, hold great [value](#) in God's eyes.



John the Baptist did not pull any punches, he preached the truth no matter the consequences and it cost him his [life](#).

Jesus' Baptism

Chapter 3, Verses 16-23 - Jesus makes his first public appearance.

1. After all the people were baptized, Jesus came also to be baptized by [John the Baptist](#).
2. While Jesus was being baptized, Jesus also [prayed](#).
3. While Jesus was being baptized, the sky [opened](#) up.
4. While Jesus was being baptized, the Holy Spirit came down in the shape of a [dove](#).
5. While Jesus was being baptized, the Holy Spirit [rested](#) on Jesus.
6. While Jesus was being baptized, God [spoke](#) from Heaven.
7. While Jesus was being baptized, God told the people that Jesus was His [Son](#).
8. While Jesus was being baptized, God told the people that He [loved](#) His Son.
9. While Jesus was being baptized, God told the people that He was very [happy](#) with His Son.
10. Jesus begins His public, earthly ministry at [30](#) years of age.



Jesus did not start His public ministry by going to Jerusalem and identifying with the established religious leaders, instead Jesus went to a river and identified with [common](#) folks who were [repenting](#) of sin.



The fact that Jesus [prayed](#) at His baptism shows us His dependence on God the Father. If Jesus needed to pray, how important is it for us to pray?



The baptism of Jesus is one of several places in Scripture where all the members of the [Trinity](#) are mentioned - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



If water baptism is symbolic of being washed of sin, then why did Jesus allow Himself to be baptized? Jesus lived a perfect sinless life, but He also allowed Himself to be baptized by John the Baptist, so he could show His humility, show the importance of the water baptism ceremony and also so He could teach by [example](#).



The baptism of Jesus is one of [three](#) times when God spoke from heaven in connection with the ministry of Jesus.



Jesus began his earthly ministry at the age of 30. Likewise, Joseph was 30 years old when he began serving the king of Egypt, and David was 30 years old when he began to reign over Judah. Age 30 was also the age that priests entered in their office. Like Jesus, we need to resist the temptation to jump ahead before receiving God's direction. Are you waiting and wondering what your next step should be? Don't [jump](#) ahead - trust God's timing.

21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

“Luke alone records the fact that Jesus prayed at His baptism. The prayer life of our Lord is a dominant theme in this Gospel.

He prayed here, at the outset of His public ministry.

He prayed when He was becoming well known and crowds were following Him (Luke 5:16).

He spent a whole night in prayer before choosing the twelve disciples (Luke 6:12).

He prayed prior to the incident at Caesarea Philippi, the high-water mark of His teaching ministry (Luke 9:18).

He prayed on the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:28).

He prayed in the presence of His disciples, and this called forth a discourse on prayer (Luke 11:1).

He prayed for backsliding Peter (Luke 22:32).

He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane before the cross (Luke 22:41, Luke 22:44).”

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