

# Luke 3:1-38 Repentance

## Its Power & Purpose

### Luk 3:1-6 KJV

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.

### The Word of God Came Unto John

#### Three stages of John's life

- **1) John was introduced to his father as one given a ministry to “turn” others - “turn” describes what is meant by repentance**
  - Luke 1:13-17 KJV ... (16) And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. (17) And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
- **2) He was in the wilderness until the time of his showing**
  - Luke 1:80 KJV And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.
  - **The wilderness is often seen as a time of preparation for ministry**
    - John was in the wilderness UNTIL the time of his shewing
    - Moses was in the wilderness for 40 years, then the burning bush
    - Jesus was led into the wilderness by the spirit 40 days then he went forth in the power of the spirit
- **3) The Word of God Came Unto John**
  - This was a defining moment
  - His life was launched on a new trajectory - the word CAME to John
  - The word was the baptism of repentance, - to prepare the way for the LORD

Jonah 1:1 - The word of the LORD came to Jonah & a second time in Jonah 3:1

## What is Repentance?

In its simplest definition it means “to change the mind” - “to think differently” about something in such a way as to cause a change in action

### **A Change of mind - to think differently**

- Mat 21:28-32 KJV But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward **he repented, and went.** 30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. 31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

### **Bible Examples Of Repentance**

- **The Prodigal son** repented when he “came to himself” (Luke 15:17) left the hog pen and went back to the father’s house.
- **The men of Nineveh** (Mat 12:41 KJV) The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because **they repented at the preaching** of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.
  - **What did the Ninevite Repentance Look Like?**
    - Jon 3:5-10 KJV So the people of Nineveh believed God
    - cried mightily unto God
    - let them turn every one from his evil way
    - turn from the violence that is in their hands
    - And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way;
    - God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them;

## The Purpose of Repentance - To Call Us to Life

## **Luk 3:7-9 KJV** Who has warned you to Flee the Wrath to come?

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.

### **1) There is a Coming Wrath - And on the day of wrath people will try to hide**

- Rev 6:16 KJV And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

### **2) There is a coming judgment**

- Act 17:30-31 KJV And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

### **3) Unless we repent we will perish**

- 2Pe 3:9 KJV The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

### **4) Repentance is a Call to Life**

- Joh 3:16 KJV For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- Acts 11:18 KJV When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

### **5) Goodness of God leads to repentance - Unrepentant hearts lead to wrath**

- Rom 2:4-8 KJV Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent [unrepentant] heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath

## **The Power of Repentance - A changed life**

### **Luk 3:7-8 KJV** Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance

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,

## True repentance produces fruit - It is fruit WORTHY of repentance

### **Zacchaeus is a great example**

- Luk 19:8-10 KJV 8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. 9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

### **Godly sorrow produces repentance - but sorrow alone is not repentance**

- 2Co 7:10-11 KJV For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. 11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ***ye sorrowed after a godly sort***, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! ***In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.***

## The Priority of Repentance - Repentance - NOT Religiosity

### **Luk 3:8-9 KJV** We are children of Abraham

...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.

### The axe is laid to the root of the tree

- **It is the fruit of repentance - that he looks for**  
Joh 15:2 KJV 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- **It is the fruit of repentance that verifies conversion**  
Mat 7:18-20 KJV 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

**Luk 3:10-14 KJV** - Practical Examples of Fruit of Repentance - Paul covered this last week

## Baptism of Fire - Purifying agent AND symbol of judgment

### **Luk 3:15-18 KJV** The Christ will baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire

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 thoroughly 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.

### **Fire purifies and transforms into something permanent and valuable**

- Proverbs 17:3 KJV The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.
- 1Pe 1:7 KJV That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

### **The Chaff are the ungodly who will not stand in judgement**

- Psa 1:4-6 KJV The **ungodly** are not so: but are like the **chaff** which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall **perish**.
- Joh 15:5-6 KJV I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 **If a man abide not in me**, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and **cast them into the fire, and they are burned**.

## The genealogy of Christ

**Luk 3:19-23 KJV** 19 But Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd 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. 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, - etc etc.

### **There is a genealogy of Christ through his father Joseph**

#### **But make no mistake...God opened heaven and proclaimed that He is MY SON**

Three times God the Father spoke out of heaven regarding His son

1. 1) At his baptism - Luk 3:22
  - a. You are my ***beloved*** Son, in you I am ***well pleased***
2. On the mountain of transfiguration (Mat 17:5)
  - a. This is my ***beloved*** Son, in whom I am ***well pleased***; hear ye him
3. Just before he died (John 12:28) - Father glorify your name
  - a. "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

#### **Questions and Confusion about the two genealogies (one in Matt and one in Luke)**

- Matthews goes from David - he was writing to show that Jesus was indeed the king of the Jews
  
- Luke goes from Adam - he was writing to show Jesus came to reach ALL nations - a light to lighten the Gentiles.

But there are still differences...I think this video provides a viable solution - and once again - apparent discrepancies in the bible will always find a solution if we research.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3bsAMyRwbw>