

# **“Why the Gospel Is Good News!”**

New Hope Community Church

February 24th, 2019

Luke 3:9-20

# **Life Group Meeting**

Luke 3:9-20

## **QUESTIONS**

### **A. John Gives A Description of True Repentance (10-14)**

#### **1. Deeds of *kindness* (11)**

- ▶ This strikes at the branch that bears fruits of **selfishness**  
*‘whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?’ 1 Jn 3:17*

#### **2. Deeds of *honesty* (12,13)**

- ▶ This strikes at the branch that bears fruits of **deceit**  
*Among the seven things God hates in Pr 6 - ‘a lying tongue . . . and a heart that devises wicked plans’*

#### **3. Deeds of *injustice* (14)**

- ▶ This strikes at the branch that bears fruits of **greed**  
*For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil’ 1 Tim 6:9,10*

### **B. John Gives Testimony of Messiah (16,17)**

#### **1. He humbly acknowledges the vast disparity in their *greatness* (16)**

- He speaks of Messiah’s greatness of **power**
- He understands his own sense of **unworthiness**

#### **2. He boldly proclaims the vast disparity in their *baptisms* (16)**

- Water has no power for heart change: A symbol of **repentance**
- Holy Spirit has full power for heart change: A **Transformer**
- Fire has full power for heart destruction: A symbol of **judgment**

#### **3. He illustrates the mission of Messiah (17)**

- Messiah is the great Harvester of **souls** at the end of the age
- The wheat represents the souls of those who repent and **believe**
- The chaff represents the souls of those who reject and **rebel**

### **C. John Preaches and Suffers for the Gospel (18-20)**

#### **1. John’s message was indeed the *good news!* (18)**

- A call to **agree** with God and change their sinful ways
- An invitation to **prepare** for the only One Who can save (repent)
- A willingness to receive and **submit** to the Savior
- The power for **change** through the Holy Spirit

#### **2. John’s message of good news was not welcomed by all**

- Herod had no interest in repentance or submission
- To protect his pride, Herod imprisoned John

#### **1) Read Luke 3:9-20**

2) If good deeds aren’t enough to save us, then why does John tell the people to “repent and bring forth fruits of repentance” when what they really needed was to be saved?

3) Consider the three fruits of selfishness, deceit, and injustice that John seems to be addressing by telling the people what kind of deeds they should be doing. Discuss how subtly these three can become our “normal way of doing life” so that we don’t even realize how offensive they truly are to a holy God.

4) Consider the three different types of baptisms identified by John — water, Spirit, and fire. What is the purpose and result of each one?

5) Discuss the harvesting analogy of verse 17. How do you think John’s listeners understood what he meant by this, and what effect do you think it might have had?

6) Consider the four elements of the gospel that are listed under point C.1. How important do you feel it is that we try as best as possible to include each of these four as we share the gospel? Why / why not?

7) We are to live out the gospel every day. Discuss how this looks in light of the four points of the gospel listed in C.1.

8) Pray for each other with regard to daily living out the gospel.