

“Bear Fruits In Keeping With Repentance”

Sermon Notes

- **John the Baptist serves to shake us and wake us to the undeniable certainty that there is a judgment coming**

**If we or the people on our 'Lists of 5' are going to be saved, we all must come to...*

1. ... _____ the non-negotiable _____ of true
_____ (vv.7-9; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 17:29-31; John
3:16, 36; Romans 5:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

2. ... _____ the wonderful _____ of true
_____ (vv.10-14; Acts 2:37-39; 16:30-31; Ephesians 2:8-
10; Titus 2:11-14; Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

Next Week: Luke 3:15-20 - “He Who Is Mightier Than I Is Coming”

Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of February 5th - 11th

Please read Luke 3:7-14.

1. John refers to his listeners as a "brood of vipers," while they think of themselves as "children of Abraham."

- a. What are the traits of vipers that they demonstrate that distinguishes them from true children of Abraham? (Destructiveness? Evil? Deception? Cunning? Cleverness? Hypocrisy? Treachery? Hostility to life? Repulsiveness?)
- b. The Lord uses the same metaphor to describe the Pharisees in Matthew 12:33-37 and 23:29-36. What does this tell you about the conduct and character of those described as a "brood of vipers?"
- c. Notice the interchange between our Lord and the Pharisees in John 8:39-47. Does this clarify what John is saying about their lineage and loyalty? If so, how?
- d. Compare "those who walk according to the flesh" with "those who set their minds on the things of the Spirit" in Romans 8:1-11. Is Paul talking about the same two classes of people? Explain.
- e. Why were the "children of Abraham" not true children of Abraham? (See John 8:39-44; Romans 4:12) What does this say about his children by adoption? (See Galatians 4:1-7)

2. John's listeners are drawn to his message because they are trying "to flee from the wrath to come."

- a. What is the wrath to come? (See Ephesians 5:6-13; Colossians. 3:5-10; Zephaniah 1:14-2:2; Amos 5:15-20; Isaiah 2:6-19)
- b. What does John's rebuke tell us about insincere repentance?
- c. How does one distinguish between sincere and insincere repentance? (See Luke 3:8)
- d. What does this tell you about the effectiveness of baptism that is not accompanied by sincere repentance?
- e. What does it take to "bear fruits in keeping with repentance?" (See Jeremiah 17:7-8; Luke 6:43-45)
- f. Is the repentance required applicable for Christian baptism? (See Acts 26:20)
- g. What benefit is there to a profession of faith in Christ in the absence of the fruit of repentance? Please explain.
- h. What fruit of repentance do you see in your own life?

3. John warns his listeners that "the axe is laid to the root of the trees."

- a. What do the trees represent? (See Isaiah 6:10-13; Ezekiel 31:3-14; Daniel 4:13-15)
- b. What does the axe represent? (See Isaiah 10:15, 33-34; Luke 13:6-9; Revelation 14:15-19)
- c. Notice that the Lord echoes John's words in Matthew 7:19 when he speaks about the tree being "cut down and cast into the fire." Is he talking about the same thing? Please explain.

4. When John's listeners ask him what they should do, does he tell them that they need to separate from society and live in the desert like he does?

a. What do the three specific bits of advice that John gives have in common?

b. Are the good works that John advocates the root, or the fruit of repentance? Please explain.

c. Do you think giving away a second change of clothing held in reserve represents modest, or radical charity? Please explain. (See Luke 6:27-36).