

**“He Who Is Mightier Than I Is Coming”**

*Sermon Notes*

□ **The incomparable value of Jesus Christ is seen in both the clarity and the cost of our personal witness to him**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ knew the greatness of Jesus, therefore his witness to him was \_\_\_\_\_ and it was \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.15-20)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ knew the greatness of Jesus, therefore his witness to him was \_\_\_\_\_ and it was \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.21-22; Luke 12:50; 22:42; Luke 23:33-34, 46)

*\*Therefore, if we know the greatness of Jesus...*

→ \_\_\_\_\_ witness to him will be \_\_\_\_\_ and it will be \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 9:26, 23; Colossians 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:12)

**Next Week: Luke 3:23-28 - “Jesus...Son of Joseph...Son of God”**

**Community Group Study Guide**  
For the Week of February 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>

**Please read Luke 3:15-22.**

1. People wondered if John might be the Messiah.
  - a. Why might they think that? (See Luke 1:76-79; John 1:19-23; Isaiah 40:3-5)
  
2. John proclaimed that the one who is to come would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
  - a. Do you think the fire is a positive thing that purifies those baptized with it?
  - b. Was this prophecy fulfilled at Pentecost? Please explain your answer. See Acts 1:5; Acts 19:1-7)
  - c. Why doesn't the Lord mention being baptized with fire in Acts 1:5?
  - d. Could the fire be a negative thing, that will destroy those who fail to repent? Please explain. (See Luke 3:9; 12:49-53; 21:25-26)
  - e. Could the fire have both a positive and negative meaning? Why or why not? (See Zechariah 13:8-9; Malachi 3:2-3)
  
3. A winnowing fork is used to separate the grain from the chaff, the valuable from the worthless.
  - a. What is the connection between verse 3:17 that talks about the winnowing fork and verse 3:16 that talks about baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire?
  - b. It is the wind that separates the grain from the chaff as it is tossed into the air by the winnowing fork. The Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" are the same words used for "wind". Could spirit Baptism perform a similar function? Please explain your answer. (See Psalm 1:4)
  
4. In Luke 3:18, he tells us that John "preached the good news." Reread John's message in Luke 3:7-9; 16-17.
  - a. Can this be considered good news? Please explain.
  - b. Do you think that John's "other exhortations" were substantially different than those given in this chapter, or were they likely similar exhortations? Please explain.
  
5. Luke doesn't mention Herod's offense that led to John's rebuke, but it is discussed in Matthew 14:3-5 and Mark 6:17-20.
  - a. Was John's disapproval of Herod's behavior unexpected? Why or why not? (See Levi 18:16 and 20:21)
  - b. Was John's imprisonment and execution the worst thing that Herod did? Please explain. (See Acts 4:27)

6. Although John baptized Jesus with water (see Mark 1:9), Luke doesn't specifically mention that fact.

- a. Who baptized Jesus with the Spirit, since John lacked the power to do this? (See Luke 3:16; Isa 42:1) (Hint: Who opened the heavens? From whom does the Holy Spirit proceed?)
- b. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit's descent upon Jesus? (See Isaiah 11:2; 61:1-2 and Luke 4:18-19; John 1:31-33)
- c. If John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, why did Jesus submit to it? (See Matthew 3:13-15; John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15)

7. The words from heaven echo Psalm 2:7. (See Acts 4:25-26; 13:33; Hebrews 1:5; 5:5)

- a. Do you think many people saw the heavens open and heard the voice? Did Jesus? Did John?
- b. Read Genesis 22:2-16. Do you hear an echo of the Lord's words to Abraham? Please explain your answer.
- c. Do you think there is a reference to Isaiah 42:1? Why or why not.

8. The Holy Spirit descended like a dove. Being a Spirit, he is naturally invisible.

- a. Do you think he looked like a dove? Please explain.
- b. If so, why do you think he chose to appear like a dove?
- c. Did he move like a dove? Please explain.
- d. If not, what does it mean that he descended "like a dove?"