

Luke #5: Bear Fruits Worthy of Repentance

Luke 3:1-14

Interesting Bible Study Points:

A. 3:3 – John prepares the way for Jesus by “proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

Luke 3:3 (ESV) ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

B. 3:3-6 – Repentance prepares the Lord’s people by calling us to be a turned, changed people (*Lk 1:16-17; see 2 Cor 7:10-11*)

Luke 1:16-17 (ESV) ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the (righteous), to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

Luke 3:3-6 (ESV) ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

“Every valley shall be filled” – the lowly, the downcast, the hopeless, the dispirited, will be lifted up and have their hopes rekindled.

“Every mountain and hill brought low” – the self-righteous, the arrogant, the haughty, will be brought to a true humility of spirit.

“The crooked shall become straight” – those who have been crooked and unrighteous in their dealings with their fellowman will be straightened out.

“The rough ways made smooth” – those who have been rough in their ways will learn gentleness and kindness.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 (ESV) ¹⁰For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. ¹¹For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

C. 3:7-9 – God’s wrath is real and is coming.

Luke 3:7-9 (ESV) ⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

D. 3:10-14 – John’s instructions are about GREED.

All the people – share with the needy

Tax collectors – be honest

Soldiers – don’t intimidate for gain, be content

Luke 3:10-14 (ESV) ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics^f is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

Two Applications:

A. Salvation is not about how “bad” or how “good” we are or have been; it is about bearing fruits of repentance.

Luke 13:1-9 (ESV) ¹There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” ⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

B. If we actually abide in Jesus, we will bear fruit. Period. If we do not bear fruit, we will be thrown into the fire. Period.

John 15:1-8 (ESV) ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵**I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.** ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

III. In What Ways May We Bear Fruit?

A. Fruitful in Crucifying the Flesh

Galatians 5:22-26 (ESV) ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

B. Fruitful in Every Good Work

Colossians 1:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

C. Fruitful in Spreading the Gospel

Romans 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), **that I might have some fruit among you also**, just as among the other Gentiles. .

D. Fruitful in Giving for the Gospel

Philippians 4:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. ¹⁷Not that I seek the gift, but I seek **the fruit** that abounds to your account.

Romans 15:28 (NKJV) ²⁸Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them **this fruit**, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

E. Fruitful in Worshipping Thankfully

Hebrews 13:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. ¹⁵Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.