

# Repentance – A Fruit of Faith in Christ Jesus!

December 16, 2018 – Luke 3:7-15

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*“John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. What should we do then? The crowd asked. John answered, The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same. Tax collectors also came to be baptized. Teacher, they asked, What should we do? Don’t collect anymore than you are required to, he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, and What should we do?”*

*He replied, Don’t extort money (obtain by threat) and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay. The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ.”*

John the Baptist was beheaded.

He was beheaded because he made enemies in high places.

King Herod was sleeping with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, and John the Baptist went to rebuke King Herod, which caused King Herod to throw John the Baptist in prison.

Then when the daughter of Herodias danced before King Herod, Herod was so pleased with the dancing girl, that he promised the daughter (not named in the Bible but believed to have the name Salome) anything she wanted up to half of his kingdom. (Matthew 14:1-12; Mk. 6:14-29)

Someone might say, John the Baptist got what he deserved.

He was bold and courageous.

Listen to the tough words he gives to the crowds that were coming out to the wilderness by the Jordan.

**Vs. 7** – John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? YOU OFFSPRING OF SNAKES = γεννηματα εχιδων

**Vs. 8** – Produce fruit - καρπουσ - in keeping with repentance. - Change of Heart - And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

**Vs. 9** – The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce GOOD fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

What John the Baptist was doing here was proclaiming the LAW loud and clear.

Showing the people their sin.

Their pride in being descendants of Abraham, but it is not the blood lines that saves, but God who has saved us through Christ Jesus His Son.

The Lord was ready to cut them down at the root.

The Law had its affect and many humbled themselves to the Word of the Lord.

**Vs. 10 – What should we do then? The crowd asked.**

**Vs. 11 – John answered, The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.**

**Vs. 12 – Tax collectors also came to be baptized. Teacher, they asked, What should we do?**

**Vs. 13 – Don't collect any more than you are required to, he told them.**

**Vs. 14 – Then some soldiers asked him, and What should we do?**

**He replied, Don't extort money (obtain by threat) and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.**

What is Your Attitude toward the Word of God? Do you humble yourselves to God's Word or would you rather lock up the preacher?

As the crowds heard the Word of God, they were led by the Holy Spirit to change their ways. The Holy Spirit led the people to have a change of heart from the Ways of Satan to the Ways of God.

The same Holy Spirit also led the people to wonder if John was the promised Messiah.

John the Baptist of course was not the Messiah, but he pointed them to Jesus, The Lamb of God Who taketh away the sin of the World.

John the Baptist acknowledged that He must decrease, while the Lord Jesus must INCREASE. (John 3:30)

Jesus was the GREAT ONE, Jesus was and Is the Messiah, the Anointed One – Immanuel – God with us. God in Christ Jesus, humbled Himself in His Love for Mankind and took on Flesh and blood. As True God and True Man, the Lord Jesus Christ took the sin of the World Upon Himself, He died the death we deserve, He suffered the hell that we deserve and rose again victoriously demonstrating His power over sin – Death and the devil.

Jesus shed His Holy Precious Blood – God's Blood for YOU.

You are forgiven all the times your pride stood in the way. Heaven is your home. AMEN