

# Luke

## See Jesus

### The Call to Repent

#### Luke 3:1-18

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Nov. 15, 2020

## I. God's Word Still Moves in Dark, Tumultuous Times

The first two verses show more than just a list of who was ruling at the time; it's a list of some of the most corrupt, irresponsible leaders who ever ruled the land.

Luke wants to communicate the dark and foreboding time into which God's Word came to John.

**Luke 3:2** "...the word of God came to John..."

The level of darkness, corruption, and confusion could not keep God's Word from coming because you can't stop God's Word!

God has heard our cry and given us His Word, so the only question that remains is: What are you doing with it?

## II. Your Life Can Be Changed by Trusting in God's Son

### A. You'll Need More than a New Set of Intellectual Beliefs

Becoming a Christian is more than just a cerebral process of getting your head around these truths. It involves turning away from your sin and putting your trust in God's Son.

**Luke 3:8** "Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father...'"

The word "repentance" in the New Testament is the Greek word "metanoia," which means a change of mind or attitude that is so strong it changes the direction or actions of your life.

Repentance is belief that impacts behavior.

The Bible talks about faith and repentance being two sides of the same salvation coin, but we have a culture of so-called Christians today that want to treat repentance as if it's optional.

If you have no desire to do what your Savior says and you're making no plans to even try, then you're probably not spiritually alive or born again.

"This restoration does not take place in one moment or one day or one year; but through continual and sometimes even slow advances...God assigns to [Christians] a race of repentance, which they are to run throughout their lives."

~ John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

Repentance is not just an event that starts your relationship with Jesus Christ. It's a process that continues the transformation of you and me becoming more like Jesus for the rest of our lives!

What does biblical repentance look like?

### 1. Repentance is More than a Feeling of Sorrow

Luke doesn't talk about any new feeling we need to have because feelings come and go. They can also still be rooted in very selfish motives.

**2 Corinthians 7:10** "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."

### 2. Repentance is More than Confessing Your Sin

Confessing your sin to someone else—even in great and gory detail—does not equal repentance if you have no desire or designs to turn away from it.

**Proverbs 28:13** "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

### 3. Repentance is More than Partial Surrender

Life-changing repentance is not a decision to give Jesus certain areas of your life while you hold on to the most important ones.

When Jesus calls us to follow Him, He doesn't give us a list of things to deny. Instead, He says we have to deny and dethrone our very selves from ruling and reigning in our lives so that He can be King.

## B. You'll Need to See Yourself as No Better than Anyone Else

When Jesus broke into our world and His call to repent was proclaimed, it shattered our categories, class distinctions, and priorities that we think sets us apart from other people and makes us just a little better.

We're all in desperate need of a Savior. At the very core of our being we're all afflicted with the same sinful condition that leaves us helpless and hopeless without the mercy of God.

There's Good News tucked into this dark chapter.

**Luke 3:18** "So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people."

That good news sounds like great news when you hear it in the context of the wrath and judgment of God that is coming.

**Luke 3:7** "...you brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

**Revelation 6:15-17** "And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup>and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup>For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'"