

Let's Be Clear!



GROWTH GUIDE JANUARY 12, 2025

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

AUTHOR

Luke, a Gentile, Greek, doctor, close friend and companion of the Apostle Paul. Luke was a historian, put great emphasis on dates and details, and connected Jesus to events and people in history. Luke's purpose was to present an accurate account of the life of Jesus. He stressed Jesus' relationships with people and gave a prominent place for women and shows Jesus' concern for women. Luke wrote his gospel around A.D. 60, from Rome or possibly from Caesarea, and it is the most comprehensive of the gospels

CONTEXT

John the Baptist (son of Zechariah and Elizabeth) is living in the wilderness. He is preaching on both sides of the Jordan River, telling people they need to be baptized and calling the people to right living, as he prepares the way for the Messiah.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 3:15-17 and 21-22. What word or phrase stands out to you?
2. The people were expecting the Messiah to come soon. Israel had not seen a prophet for more than 400 years. Read Joel 2:28, 29; Malachi 3:1 and 4:5. What would happen before and when the Messiah came?
3. Some people thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. When questioned, what was his response? What was the difference between how John was baptizing and how Jesus would baptize? What was the symbolism of water and of fire?

4. In verse 17, John the Baptist tells that Jesus is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork, clean up the threshing area, gather the wheat into his barn but burn the chaff. What does this mean? How does this statement impact you?
5. Luke 3:21-22 tells of the baptism of Jesus. Read and compare this account with the accounts in Matthew 3:13-17 and Mark 1:9-11. What details can you glean from these passages? What do these details reveal to you about who Jesus is?
6. Jesus' baptism, as recorded in Luke, was the first public declaration of Jesus' ministry. Read Luke 3:3. John preached on both sides of the Jordan River. Why did he tell people they should be baptized? Read Luke 3:21. Instead of going to Jerusalem and being a part of the religious leaders, Jesus went to a river, joined the crowds who were repenting of their sins and being baptized, and was baptized himself. Some theologians over the years have been troubled that Jesus allowed himself to be baptized by John the Baptist because baptism was for sinners. Why do you think Jesus allowed himself to be baptized? He was not in need of repentance and forgiveness.
7. What happened after Jesus was baptized? Who was present? How would Jesus' ministry be empowered?
8. The voice from heaven affirmed Jesus' sovereignty and service. Read Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1. What do these verses say about Jesus?

NOTES