



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 3 – Luke 3

People — Who is involved?

*John the Baptist: preaching near the Jordan R.
Herod Antipas: put John in prison.
Jesus: came to be baptized by John.*

Places — Where does it happen?

The Jordan River region – John preached in the area east and northeast of Jerusalem, and baptized people in the Jordan River.

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

- Vs. 1 – Tiberius Caesar was the Roman Emperor (A.D. 14-37). John began to preach about A.D. 28/29. Pontius Pilate was the Roman Governor of Judea (A.D. 26-36). Herod Antipas was a son of Herod the Great who ruled in Palestine (A.D. 4-39).*
- Vs. 2 – Annas was High Priest from A.D. 6-15 when he was dismissed by the Romans. The Jews, however, seemed to continue to recognize him as the legitimate high priest. Caiaphas was Annas' son-in-law who was named High Priest (A.D. 18-37) and served during the adult life-time of Jesus.*
- Vs. 3 – John's baptism was based on repentance and was for "the remission of sins."*
- Vs. 4 – This quotation may be found in Isaiah 40:3-5. John called for the people to prepare for Jesus.*
- Vs. 9 – Notice the symbol of judgment used here, "...the axe is laid to the root of the trees."*
- Vs. 16 – See Acts 1:5, 8; 2:2-4. The apostles of Jesus would be filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and all would be impacted by that. Baptism with (in) the Holy Spirit represents God's presence and power to cleanse and save; baptism with fire represents judgment (see vs.17).*
- Vs. 19 – Because of his preaching, John was later imprisoned. He rebuked Herod for marrying his brother's wife (see Mark 6:14-29; Matt. 14:1-12).*
- Vs. 22 – Here the Holy Spirit descended, the Father spoke from Heaven, as the Son was baptized. Some say the Father is the same as the Son (and also the Holy Spirit)...therefore one Being. This passage indicates otherwise.*
- Vs. 23-38 – Notice Jesus' lineage is traced all the way back to Adam. Matthew's traces to Abraham. Luke is probably tracing the actual lineage through Mary (although naming the male forebears) while Matthew is tracing the legal lineage of Jesus through Joseph.*

Perspectives – What may I learn from this chapter?

- 1. "Fruits worthy of repentance" involve living in a way that is beneficial to self and others: generosity (vs. 11); honesty (vs. 13); and justice (vs. 14).*
- 2. Jesus was baptized, not because He had sinned or needed the remission of sins, but to become our role-model of complete obedience to God. And God showed His approval.*
- 3. Jesus' lineage justifies His claims to fulfill the promises to Abraham and to sit on the throne of David.*