

# Luke 3:15-20

# The message of John...

- ▶ Preached an uncompromising message of repentance
- ▶ True repentance requires true change
- ▶ You can't be saved through tradition
- ▶ “Be prepared to change!”
  
- ▶ *“every tree which does not bear fruit is cut down & thrown into the fire” (3:9)*

# 1. Expectation –v1 5

*Is this the Messiah?*

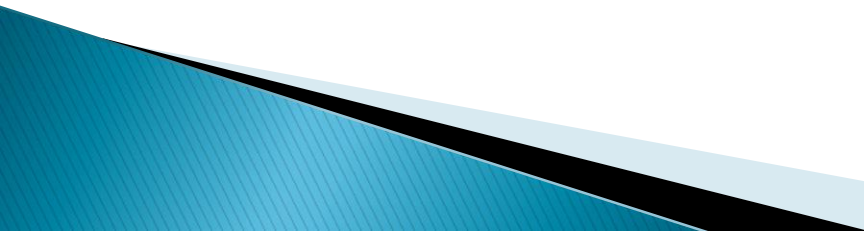
- ▶ Crowds gathering
- ▶ The people were waiting for the Messiah...
- ▶ They thought John was the Messiah!
- ▶ John – a *forerunner* of the Messiah...“a voice crying in the wilderness”
- ▶ John was even asked by the Jewish leaders if he was the Messiah (John 1:20–27)
  
- ▶ Are we coming expectantly to God’s Word?

## 2. Direction –v16

*No – the Messiah is coming!*

- ▶ Plenty of false Messiahs
- ▶ John says “I am not the Messiah!”
- ▶ John points the people forward to the Lord Jesus Christ
- ▶ V16 – “One mightier than I is coming”
- ▶ “I indeed baptize you with water...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire”

# 3. Baptism – the Holy Spirit (v16)

- ▶ Acts 1:5–8...the promise of the Lord Jesus to his disciples – the Spirit will come
  - ▶ Acts 2: the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost...the rushing wind, and tongues of fire
  - ▶ An immediate impact on the disciples!
  - ▶ This promise is now for all believers! (Acts 2:38–39)
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# 3. Baptism – Fire (v16–18)

- ▶ a) **Fire gives heat** : The “Passion” of God
- ▶ We should show the fruits of the Spirit in our lives – which others can see and feel! (Gal 5:22)
  
- ▶ b) **Fire gives light**: The Presence of God
- ▶ We have God’s guidance for our lives.
- ▶ *1 Cor 2:9*
  
- ▶ c) **Fire cleanses**: The Purity of God
- ▶ Our lives should change – as sin is “swept away”
  
- ▶ d) **Fire destroys**: The Judgement of God
- ▶ The farmer burns the chaff. The wheat is safe in the barns. (Luke 3:17–18)

# 5. Opposition (v19–20)

- ▶ If you speak the word of God, you'll face opposition
  - ▶ John stood up to King Herod – and faced imprisonment (and death)
  - ▶ He was prepared to count the cost – for standing up for what God says.
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