

## The Fruit of Repentance

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Luke 3:7-9 7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

- Repentance is a seed sown into the life of the believer. It is germinated by truth and grace. The fruit it produces is life change, revival, and restorative justice, to name a few.
- Last week, I omitted the concept of **restitution**. This is not merely paying back, it's actually paying forward. It's removing the weeds that sin has sown in the proverbial garden of our lives and planting good seeds that will bring about a greater harvest.
- As we approach the text to focus, we see John the Baptist, in his prophetic office, challenging the crowd that flocked to him for the excitement of the baptism experience, but had not fully understood the implications of the message of repentance. Here we see John making it very practical how repentance should reshape our daily lives.
- V. 8-9: **8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**” The goodness or godlessness of our parents has no bearing on our personal relationship with Christ and our response to the call to repentance. We must all seek God for ourselves and repent on our own accord.
- V. 10-11: **10 And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” 11 And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”** When we live lives of repentance, we are

awakened to areas of our lives where we are selfish and indulgent. The Spirit will lead us to respond to these realities by operating with compassion and generosity.

- V. 12-13: **12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” 13 And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”** As the truth of repentance pierces our hearts, it convicts us of our greed and unscrupulous tactics. The fruit of repentance is operating with honesty, integrity, and equity in all of our dealings.
- V. 14: **14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”** Those in seats of power have been given the sacred responsibility of upholding the rule of law and stewarding their power for the good of all. When the powerful are repentant, justice is restored, peace ensues, and prosperity is shared.

Prophetic Declaration: “I WILL BEAR FRUIT”