

## Jesus Is Coming: Practice Repentance

### Bible Study Guide — Luke 3:10–14 (ESV)

Expository Focus: Contentment is the fruit of genuine repentance.

Study Purpose: To understand how genuine repentance produces contentment that becomes visible through generosity, integrity, and faithfulness in everyday life.

Opening Discussion: Think about the statement from Sunday's message:

"Our hands tell a story about our hearts."

What does that statement mean to you? How can someone's actions reveal what they truly treasure?

#### I. Contentment Produces Generosity with Our Possessions (vv. 10–11)

Read Luke 3:10–11. John instructs those who have two tunics to share with those who have none. He extends the same principle to food.

Explanation: Repentance begins changing our relationship with possessions. Rather than treating everything we own as something to protect for ourselves, we recognize that God has entrusted us with resources that can bless others.

#### Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think John begins with such ordinary things as clothing and food?
2. How can fear of not having enough prevent us from being generous?
3. What is the difference between giving out of guilt and giving out of contentment in Christ?

Application: Identify one resource God has entrusted to you that could meet a genuine need in someone else's life.

#### II. Contentment Produces Integrity with Our Provisions (vv. 12–13)

Read Luke 3:12–13. Tax collectors were instructed not to collect more than they were authorized to collect.

Explanation: Genuine repentance changes how we acquire and manage what God provides. Contentment frees us from the temptation to manipulate, deceive, or take advantage of others to gain more.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why didn't John simply tell the tax collectors to abandon their occupations?
2. How can discontentment lead people to compromise their integrity?
3. What might practice repentance look like in our financial decisions, employment, or business relationships?

**Application:** Examine an area where personal gain might be competing with honesty and obedience to Christ.

## III. Contentment Produces Faithfulness with Our Power (v. 14)

**Read Luke 3:14.** John instructs the soldiers to stop extorting others, avoid false accusations, and be content with their wages.

**Explanation:** Repentance transforms both our use of authority and our attitude toward our circumstances. Instead of using power for selfish gain, we learn to serve honorably and faithfully.

## Discussion Questions

1. How does contentment affect the way we exercise authority or influence?
2. What is the difference between godly ambition and sinful discontentment?
3. How can we remain faithful in an appointment or assignment we would not have chosen for ourselves?

**Application:** Identify one responsibility or relationship in which you can demonstrate greater faithfulness this week.

## Greek Word Study

### 1. Metanoia (μετάνοια) — Repentance

A change of mind and direction involving a turning from sin toward God. Used in Luke 3:8, which provides the context for verses 10–14.

### 2. Karpos (καρπός) — Fruit

The visible result or evidence of an inward reality. John's call is for fruit consistent with repentance.

### 3. Arkeō (ἀρκέω) — To Be Sufficient or Content

In Luke 3:14, the command *arkeisthe* means "be content." It describes satisfaction with one's wages rather than pursuing gain through wrongdoing.

The Connection: Repentance changes our direction, fruit reveals that change, and contentment is one expression of that fruit.

#### Additional Scripture for Study

- Philippians 4:11–13: Contentment learned through dependence on Christ.
- 1 Timothy 6:6–10: Godliness with contentment is great gain.
- Hebrews 13:5–6: Contentment rooted in God's abiding presence.
- 2 Corinthians 9:6–8: Generosity flowing from God's abundant grace.
- John 15:4–5: Lasting spiritual fruit comes through abiding in Christ.

#### Closing Reflection — Head, Heart, Hands

HEAD — Understanding- What does Luke 3:10–14 teach about the relationship between genuine repentance and visible fruit?

HEART — Examination- Where am I struggling to believe that Jesus is enough? What am I gripping, grabbing, or trying to control?

HANDS — Obedience- What one specific action will I take this week to demonstrate contentment through generosity, integrity, or faithfulness?

Final Challenge: This week, practice living with open hands.

Not because your possessions, provisions, or position are insignificant, but because none of them can give you what only Jesus Christ can provide.

Our hands should increasingly reflect hearts that are satisfied in Christ. And as we practice repentance, may the world see less of our selfishness and more of our Savior.

Jesus is more than enough!