



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of August 15, 2021

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Luke 3:10-20

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." 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." 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." 15 As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, 16 John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." 18 So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. 19 But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, 20 added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

Repentance and forgiveness are the two main themes of John the Baptist's preaching. John helps us to see that true repentance is proven through the way we treat other people. John shows us that knowing Christ means putting Him first and foremost so that we make more of Him and less of ourselves in every area of our lives. We see in John a commitment to the gospel that surpasses even his desire for life itself. Such was the life and ministry of John the Baptist whom the Bible calls "great before the Lord".

Discussion Questions

1. John preached to the crowds that true repentance unto God should result in a changed life that will be evidenced in the way we treat other people. Read Luke 3:10-14. What should true repentance look like in a Christian? Give examples from your own experience and discuss whether a selfish, self-centered, self-indulgent Christian can be truly repentant unto God.
2. In our sermon, we heard that the reason people are greedy and want more for themselves is because they are discontent. Why should Christians be the most content, and therefore generous people in the world? What warning does Hebrews 13:5-6 give to Christians who are always seeking more and more money? For the Christian who is always seeking more, what does this say about his/her trust and security in God?
3. The large crowds were wondering about John's ministry - could he be the Messiah? John was quick to put them in their place, for he knew that he was not even fit to untie Jesus' sandals. Think about John the Baptist, of whom Jesus said, "*among those born of women none is*

greater than John” What do we learn about humility from John? Now think about Jesus, who would later, not only untie the sandals from His disciples feet, but also wash them as well. How does Jesus’ example speak to you about how you should treat other people? How does His example help you in your contentment?

4. Knowing a Savior who would give everything He had, even His life, for the ones He loves, should help us to be more like John the Baptist in making more of Jesus and less of ourselves. How can you make more of Jesus and less of yourselves in every area of your life - in your marriage, in your family, in your use of your resources, in your thought life, in your free time, in every area of your life? What does this look like practically? Give some examples.
5. John’s commitment to preach the good news compelled him to speak truth even to those who had the power to put him to death. Is the gospel message - calling people to repentance so that they might gain forgiveness - important enough, valuable enough, for us to give up our very lives? What are you holding onto in this life that is more important than the salvation of an eternal soul? What can help us to see our life the way John saw his?