



# what came first?

January 15, 2017 - Pastor Bruce French

## TAKE HOME TRUTH

*True repentance is accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_.*

Luke 3:15-18 (cf. Romans 10:9-10)

### How to foster...

- A. Make a list of \_\_\_\_\_ activities.**
- B. Identify any that could lead to \_\_\_\_\_ activities.**
- C. Choose to \_\_\_\_\_ from those questionable items.**



### What is true repentance accompanied by?

#### Principle one:

*True repentance is accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_.*  
Luke 3:7-9 (cf. 2 Corinthians 7:10)

#### Application one:

*After you \_\_\_\_\_, choose to \_\_\_\_\_.*

#### Principle two:

*True repentance is accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_.*  
Luke 3:10-14 (cf. Luke 5:31-32; Romans 2:4)

#### Application two:

*After you \_\_\_\_\_, commit to \_\_\_\_\_.*

#### Today's Core Practice:

**Man & Sin:** *I believe that all people are loved by God, and because of my sins, I need Jesus Christ as my savior. (from John 3:16).*



## Deeper Connection Study

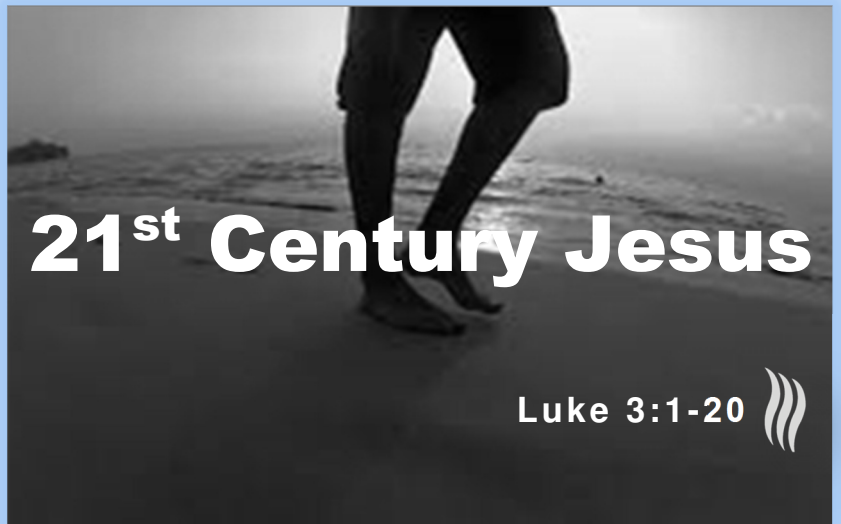
Before explaining the message and ministry of John, Luke provides the historical context to deepen our understanding of the times: Tiberius reigns over an empire which includes four Roman vassals governing a divided Israel and Judaism now has a shared priesthood. Things are not right in the Land.

*Today's Core Belief discussed: Jesus Christ.*

### Read Luke 3:1-20

1. Who is John and what is his role? How is he an important figure in Jesus' life and ministry (cf. 1:5-80)?
2. What strong words did John preach to the crowds coming to be baptized (vv. 7-14, 18)? Why do you think he spoke this way?
3. What did John indicate about God's judgment to come (v. 7)? What is the meaning of repentance (cf. Ezek. 18:30-32; 2 Cor. 7:10)? What is its fruit?
4. How do people respond to John's message? What imagery does he use to express Jesus' baptismal ministry as well as his action of judgment?
5. What do you think John would preach to "religious" people today? Why is this kind of wake-up call needed?
6. How do you speak the truth of the gospel to others? What are some difficult truths that people need to hear? How do your words and life point others to Jesus?

**PRAYER TO THE POINT:** Praise God that he provides forgiveness to those who truly repent of their sins. Ask God to draw you closer to Christ. Pray for clarity as you share the gospel of Christ with others.



Most have heard the question, "What came first, the chicken, or the egg?" It is a profound inquiry that has been used at countless icebreakers. Though it has been discussed for dozens of years, it is still unanswered. Why is that? Obviously, it is because no one but God was present at the chicken's conception. However, in spite of that reality, the fact remains that both the chicken and the egg are important in today's context.

A similar type of question has been asked and debated about for many years as well. It is the inquiry, "What came first, repentance, or salvation?" In the same fashion, it is still an unanswered question because no one but God was present at the birth of His salvation plan. Yet in spite of that fact, repentance and salvation are both divinely important in today's context. Why are they important? They are important because salvation gives evidence to repentance and repentance gives evidence to salvation!