

## St. Luke 3 Study Questions

1. **Luke 3:4-6** What is the significance of Luke's quoting the opening chapter of Isaiah's central section (chapters 40-55)?

Footnote p. 112, **3:4-6 Isaiah's words**

**Isaiah 40:3-5** A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

2. **Luke 3:7-8** John calls his audience a brood of vipers because they put on a show of repentance without actually repenting inwardly. What should they have done?

**Isaiah 1:16-17** Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

**Galatians 5:22-24** (P. 340) and **Footnote 5:22 The Fruit of the Spirit**

3. **Luke 3:7-8** How hard is it for you to examine your conscience before going to confession? What techniques do you utilize in examining your conscience? How do you excuse your behavior or dodge the need to repent?

4. **Luke 3:16** In terms of your personal experience, what does it mean for you to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire?

How has that Spirit and that fire touched your life?

**Acts 2:1-4** (p. 209) and **Footnote 2:4 Filled with the Holy Spirit**

**CCC 1287** This fullness of the Spirit was not to remain uniquely the Messiah's, but was to be communicated to the whole messianic people. On several occasions Christ promised this outpouring of the Spirit, a promise which he fulfilled first on Easter Sunday and then more strikingly at Pentecost. Filled with the Holy Spirit the apostles began to proclaim, "the mighty works of God," and Peter declared this outpouring of the Spirit to be the sign of the messianic age. Those who believed in the apostolic preaching and were baptized received the gift of the Holy Spirit in their turn.

5. **Luke 3:16-18** John has "exhorted" (strongly encouraged) the crowds with the good news. If it is so good, why threaten people with the prospect of hellfire and damnation?

**Matthew 13:24-30** (p. 31) and **Footnote p. 30, 13:18-23 The parable of the Sower**

**CCC 29** But this "intimate and vital bond of man to God" can be forgotten, overlooked, or even explicitly rejected by man. Such attitudes can have different causes: revolt against evil in the world; religious ignorance or indifference; the cares and riches of this world; the scandal of bad example on the part of believers; currents of thought hostile to religion; finally, that attitude of sinful man which makes him hide from God out of fear and flee his call.

6. **Luke 3:21–22** Which two Old Testament oracle messages resonate in the background of Luke’s account of Jesus’ Baptism by John?

Footnote p. 112, **3:21-22 Luke abbreviates Jesus’ baptism**

**Isaiah 11:1-2** A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

**Isaiah 42:1-3** Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

7. **Luke 3:23–38** Why does Matthew trace Jesus’ ancestry forward from Abraham, while Luke traces it back from Jesus to Adam?

How can we explain the fact that the generations from David to Jesus in both Gospels are significantly different?

Footnote p. 113, **3:23-38 There are several differences**

8. **Luke 3:23** Why does Luke note Jesus’ age at the start of his public ministry?

What is the connection with King David?

Footnote p. 113, **3:23 Thirty years of age**

**2 Samuel 5:4-5** David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.