

# ***Divine Promotion***

***PASTOR MIKE YODER • LUKE 3:1–20***



# Meeting Jesus Requires a Transformed Perspective (3:1–9)





*In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar — when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene —*

*during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.*

**Luke 3:2**

*He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

**Luke 3:3**

*As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:  
“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for  
the Lord, make straight paths for Him.’”*



*‘Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.’”*

**Luke 3:5**

*‘And all people will see God’s salvation.’”*



*John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”*

**Luke 3:7**

*“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.”*

*“The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”*



*Jesus entered as a person of  
history, not fantasy.*





*A transformed perspective  
is publicly pledged.*



*John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.*

**Matthew 3:4**

*People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.*

**Matthew 3:5**

*Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.*

**Matthew 3:6**



**Repentance is the turning in the heart and mind that results in a changing of direction of the entire life.**

**Thabiti Anyabwile**

*“and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”*

**Luke 24:47**

*“I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.”*

**Acts 20:21**

*“First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.”*

**Acts 26:20**



John's baptism looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, while Christian baptism looks back to the finished work of Christ.

*Jesus as King deserves  
a royal reception.*



The highway that clears the way of God's coming is a purified heart.

**Darrell Bock**



***Fruit, not heredity, proves  
one's spiritual status.***





**Religious heritage and ancestry are irrelevant before God. God's children are not born at physical birth, but are transformed from the heart.**

# Meeting Jesus Motivates a Transformed Lifestyle (3:10–20)



*“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.*

*John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”*

**Luke 3:11**



*Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”*

**Luke 3:12**

*“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.*

**Luke 3:13**

*Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely — be content with your pay.”*

*The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.*

**Luke 3:15**



*John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But One who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

**Luke 3:16**

*“His winnowing fork is in His hand to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*

**Luke 3:17**

*And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.*

*But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done,*



*Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.*

*True repentance is shown  
in righteous living.*



The change of life that will result from genuine conversion does not save us, but it will certainly result if our faith is genuine.

Jesus consistently puts His finger on the area of sin most influential in that person's life. In fact, we may ask whether anyone in the gospels ever came to sincere faith in Christ without repenting of his or her sins.

**Wayne Grudem**



Repentance means turning from as much as you know of your sin to give as much as you know of yourself to as much as you know of your God.

**J.I. Packer**

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent”  
(Matthew 4:17), He willed the entire life of believers to be  
one of repentance.

**Martin Luther**

*True repentance will  
be exposed by Jesus.*



*To this John replied, “A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.”*

**John 3:27**



*“You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of Him.’”*

**John 3:28**

*“The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.”*

*“He must become greater; I must become less.”*

**John 3:30**

Judgment is not at first sight very good news; but it is an integral part of the Gospel.

**Leon Morris**



*True repentance will  
come at a cost.*



People are often wrong in their assessment of who Jesus is. The Christian's job is to make it plain...

**Thabiti Anyabwile**

To bear faithful witness about Jesus requires us to be careful with the message of the Gospel, to be lovingly confrontational with the people who hear it, and to pay the cost that Christ may call us to pay.

**Thabiti Anyabwile**

John is able to help people express their *desire* for a new life. Jesus gives them the *power* to live a new life.

Colin Smith



If Socrates would enter the room, we should rise and do him honor. But if Jesus Christ came into the room, we should fall down on our knees and worship Him.

**Napoleon Bonaparte**

**Meeting Jesus calls for  
repentance and results in fruit.**

