

Luke 3:8-11

Living the life of a Christian

“Therefore bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father,’ for I say to you that God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. And also the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the multitudes were questioning him, saying, “Then what shall we do?” And he would answer and say to them, “Let the man who has two tunics share with him who has none; and let him who has food do likewise.”

I like how in these verses there is both the conviction to begin bearing good fruit and at the same time an explanation of what good fruit looks like. If you read further there are still more practical things that John shares regarding how we are to live however I thought I would just look at these first verses.

John says, “Bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance,” followed by, not relying on what family you have been born into. This is just as important for us today for we often forget that calling ourselves Christians and believers in God does not mean that we are living the life of a Christian. So often we are guilty of not examining ourselves by the light of God’s holy Word and just live by the standards of everyone around us. Very easy to do! John says, examine yourself, are you bearing the fruit of someone who knows and loves God? If we are, then our lives should show it. We should be growing more in love with Jesus everyday. We should be feeling the punishment that our unsaved friends will soon be enduring if we don’t begin to do something about it. We should be continually thinking of new ways to reach out to people. And we should have less and less time in a week for our own usual self-fulfillments because we not only love to be doing more in the service of our Savior but feel the urgency of the work at hand and the shortness of the time to do it in! We just love serving Him more than anything else in the world!

John issues a warning to all who are resting on something that is having no impact on their daily live. He says, “God can turn even these stones into sons of Abraham.” Meaning there is no security in the name you call yourself by. He says, examine your lives, repent and turn your heart back to God. Then he gives some practical advice. He says, if you have two sets of clothing give one away to someone in need. If you have food do the same. I love how this just strips away all theological discussion about how we are supposed to live with regard to whatever possessions we might have. Just begin serving one another with whatever it is that we have to serve with. He didn’t say, come up with a business plan on reaching out to people. He just said start with what you have.

So let us examine our lives before God once again today and remember that he hasn’t left us without a guide to follow but has written all things down for us so that we might serve Him with all diligence. One thing we know for sure. When we stand in heaven we are not going to say, “Man I wish I had watched more TV when I was alive on earth or made that trip to see Australia!” No we will wish we had spent more time profitably in His service while we were here. The good news! We are still here and able to make up for lost time by serving more diligently than ever before! So let us rejoice and serve Him with gladness and joy for it is still day and much can be accomplished!

God bless you all!

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Written by a fellow servant of Jesus -Seth

