

December 16 | Sunday

Advent: John the Baptist's Message

Read [Matthew 3:1-12](#)



17 | Mon – A new direction | Read [Luke 3:1-3](#) / [Matthew 3:1-2](#)

It is in the quiet places of life where we hear God speaking the most clearly. John was living in the wilderness when the word of the Lord came to him, a message for the people. The original word for **repent** expresses the idea of '*turning away from one thing and toward another*'. Since the Jewish people were John's target audience, what do you think they were being called to repent from and why?

18 | Tue – Agreed | Read [Matthew 3:5-6](#)

Confession is good for the soul, or someone has been quoted as saying so, but what does it mean to *confess*? The literal meaning is '**to say the same thing as; to agree, acknowledge, admit**'. You can acknowledge something positive - God is worthy of our trust - but most people connect *confession* with wrongdoing. Before being baptized, those listening to John were moved to confess or **agree with God** that they had sinned, missed the mark. Are there things in your life right now that you might be asked by the Holy Spirit to confess?

19 | Wed – Who me? | Read [Matthew 3:7-10](#) / [Luke 3:7-9](#)

John's message was not only for the common people but he was very direct when speaking to the spiritual leaders who came to listen. Their religious security was based on their family tree, as descendants of holy ancestors such as Abraham. Is that something like a person who believes they are a Christian because they grew up in a church-going family and have not robbed a bank or killed someone? What did John say God is looking for?

20 | Thu – Walk it out | Read [Luke 3:10-14](#)

Some in the crowd needed more specifics and asked what they should do to 'produce fruit in keeping with repentance'? Isn't that the important question? It is easy to confess in private, admitting to yourself and to God where you fall short. You can even repent by saying you will turn away from those harmful things and turn toward God's ways. But if it stops there, in the privacy of your own prayers, is that true repentance? What more is needed?

21 | Fri – Even more | Read [Matthew 3:11-12](#) / [Luke 3:15-18](#)

John's message was so powerful, people wondered if he was the promised Messiah. A lesser person may have been tempted to accept the accolades but not John. He knew he was called to prepare the way for the Messiah and he stayed true to that calling. When people accepted the challenge to confess, repent and live out that change, then John told them the best news of all. Have you experienced the promised power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

22 | Sat – What is your message? | Read [Luke 3:19-20](#)

John never wavered from the message God gave him, even when he was jailed for proclaiming the truth. Every person's life and actions send a message to those around them. If you have experienced the life-changing process of confession and repentance, if you have made Jesus number one in your life, then God has a message for you to share. Do you know what it is? If you don't, right now would be the perfect time to ask.