

Day 4: A Changed Heart, A Changed Life

Read and Reflect: Luke 3:10-14

Repentance does not remove us from daily life—it shapes how we live in it. God’s grace changes how we love, speak, work, and serve.

How has the gospel changed how I treat others?

Where might obedience be the next step of repentance?

Day 5: Turning to Christ Again and Again

Read and Reflect: Luke 3:15-17

John steps aside so Christ can take center stage. True repentance always points beyond oneself—to Jesus, who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and gives new life.

Where do I need to decrease so Christ may increase?

Am I trusting Christ—or managing Him?

The Posture of a Prepared People

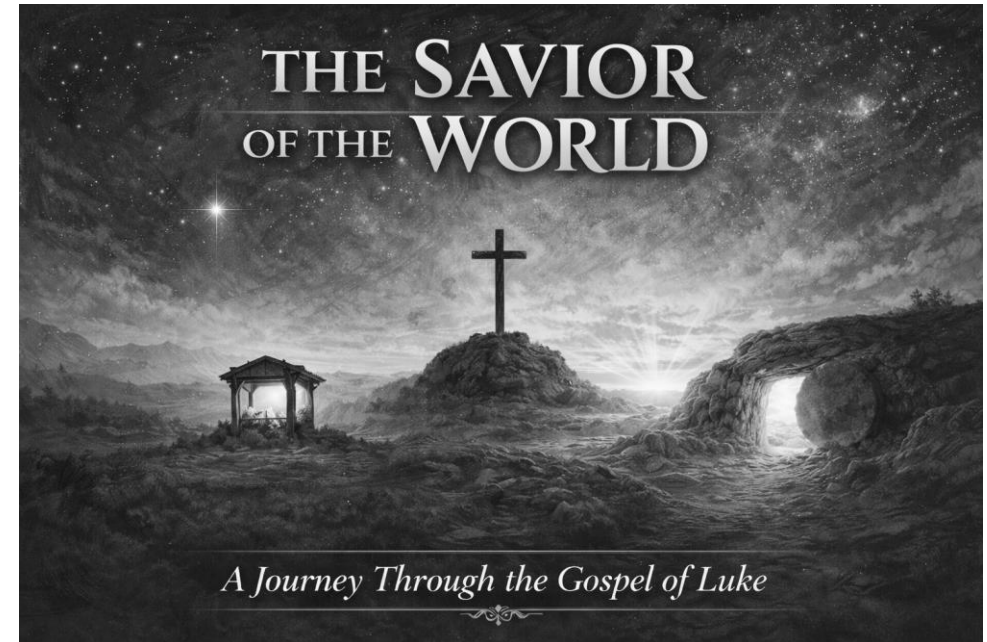
The gospel begins with clarity and conviction, not comfort.

Repentance is not a one-time act, but a lifelong posture.

Questions for Self-Examination:

- Am I clinging to false confidence—or bearing fruit in repentance?
- Am I managing appearances—or surrendering my heart?
- Am I turning from sin—or negotiating with it?
- Am I surrendering to Christ’s rule—or protecting what I refuse to give up?

Repentance before the Redeemer prepares us to receive Christ—and to reflect Him together.



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THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD:

Repentance Before the Redeemer

Luke 3:1-17

SERMON NOTES

Biblical repentance involves:

- Seeing ourselves honestly before God
- Admitting guilt without excuse
- Humbling ourselves under God's Word
- Actively turning from sin and toward Christ

God's Work in Real History (v. 1-2)

God's saving work unfolds in real time, real places, and among real people.

It wasn't to prominent powers, but to one least expected that God spoke. God does not advance His Kingdom through human power or prestige.

He speaks where hearts are ready—not where influence is concentrated.

Foretelling the Way Preparer (v. 3-6)

John is not self-appointed; he is called and commissioned by God.

His message is one of repentance, forgiveness, and preparing God's coming.

According to Isaiah 40, valleys will be lifted, mountains lowered, and crooked paths straightened. The greatest obstacles to God's coming are not geographical, but spiritual.

Confronting False Confidence (v. 7-9)

John exposes religious presumption: ancestry, appearances, and ritual without repentance.

God's grace is not compelled by heritage, merit, or effort.

If we will not repent, God will not lack a people—but we may miss His grace.

Truth Piercing the Heart (v. 10-14)

True repentance must be lived out where you are. Changed hearts produce changed lives.

Repentance does not earn salvation, but is evidence that salvation is working.

A changed standing before God produces a changed walk with God.

A Servant Is Not Above His Master (v. 15-17)

John points away from himself to Christ, who is greater in person, power, and work.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Day 1: Preparation Begins with Repentance

Read and Reflect: Luke 3:1-3

Before Jesus appears publicly, God prepares hearts privately. Repentance is not God's demand for improvement—it is His merciful invitation to honesty. The gospel does not begin with comfort, but with truth that leads to freedom.

Where might I be avoiding honest self-examination before God?
What has repentance looked like in my life recently?

Day 2: God Speaks Where Hearts Are Ready

Read and Reflect: Luke 3:1-2

God bypassed palaces and temples, and spoke in the wilderness. He still does. God's voice often meets us not in strength, but in humility and need.

Where might God be inviting me into deeper humility?
Am I listening to God's Word—or relying on my own understanding?

Day 3: Repentance Bears Fruit

Read and Reflect: Luke 3:7-9

John confronts false confidence and calls for visible fruit. Repentance that remains only internal has not yet taken hold.

What fruit of repentance should be growing in my life?
Where might I be trusting religious appearance instead of heart surrender?