

## St. John's EBCs, Everyday Bible Conversations!

*EBC 3, 2, 1! – On Location in 2024! Leading to Worship Sunday, December 15, 2024*

### Reading: Luke 3:7-18

EBC focuses on bringing the Bible into our Everyday Lives, emphasizing God's Everyday presence by finding connections in our physical world! EBC also has a video component on the St. John's website and St. John's You Tube channel. This week, for the third week of Advent, we put our arms around more than a thousand years of Christian heritage, and consider a millennia-old question: what are we to do? Click here: <https://youtu.be/e7Xf9jeoxi8> Welcome to this week's EBC 3,2,1! Three points, two questions, and one action step!

### Three Points

- As the story of John the Baptist continues in Luke 3, John accuses the very people coming to be baptized by him: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" "[D]o not begin to say to yourselves 'We have Abraham as our ancestor.'" (Luke 3:7-8)
- The crowds ask John directly: "What, then, should we do?" John's answer is not the abandonment of hope, but the encouragement of grace: share with the needy, feed the hungry, take only what you are allowed, and do not exploit others.
- Then John foretells the coming of Jesus, the one who will "baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Luke 3:16) "So with many other exhortations [John] proclaimed the good news to the people." (Luke 3:18)

### Two Questions

- Can we claim a birthright simply by being raised Christian, or having a history of church-going faith? On the other hand, why does John exhort us to do works of generosity if we cannot "earn" Jesus's saving grace? How do we "demonstrate" a repentant heart?
- Why is John critical that the crowd is warned to flee from God's wrath? Isn't that exactly what John is doing – warning the crowd to repent? Can you see the essential role our own love and generosity at Christmas (and always) plays in moving us from simply "fear" of God's wrath, to the joy of Jesus's love and salvation?

### Action Step

- Share grace! Christmas is not a story of judgment, it is a story of joy!

*Don't like these questions? Do these verses say something different to you? Great! What it is?*

And as always, you are encouraged to find a friend (or two or many) and take an EBC coffee break! Find 15-25 minutes somewhere in the week and share your faith. Have fun finding God this week in your Everyday Life!