

Luke Lesson 11 Handout





Archeologists believe that they have uncovered the Baptism Site where, according to the Bible, John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

David Bjorgen

Author Doug Mendenhall shares a brief parable that should cause all of us to pause and reflect:

Jesus called the other day to say he was passing through and [wondered if] he could spend a day or two with us.

I said, "Sure. Love to see you. When will you hit town?"

I mean, it's Jesus, you know, and it's not every day you get the chance to visit with him. It's not like it's your in-laws and you have to stop and decide whether the advantages outweigh your having to move to the sleeper sofa.

That's when Jesus told me he was actually at a convenience store out by the interstate.

I must have gotten that Bambi-in-headlights look, because my wife hissed, "What is it? What's wrong? Who is that?"

So I covered the receiver and told her Jesus was going to arrive in eight minutes, and she ran out of the room and started giving guidance to the kids—in that effective way that Marine drill instructors give guidance to recruits. ...

My mind was already racing with what needed to be done in the next eight—no seven—minutes so Jesus wouldn't think we were reprobate loser slob.

I turned off the TV in the den, which was blaring some weird scary movie I'd been half watching. But I could still hear screams from our bedroom, so I turned off the reality show it was tuned to. Plus, I turned off the kids' set out on the sun porch, because I didn't want to have to explain *Jon & Kate Plus Eight* to Jesus, either, six minutes from now.

My wife had already thinned out the magazines that had been accumulating on the coffee table. She put *Christianity Today* on top for a good first impression. Five minutes to go.

I looked out the front window, but the yard actually looked great thanks to my long, hard work, so I let it go. What could I improve in four minutes anyway?

I did notice the mail had come, so I ran out to grab it. Mostly it was Netflix envelopes and a bunch of catalogs tied into recent purchases, so I stuffed it back in the box. Jesus doesn't need to get the wrong idea—three minutes from now—about how much on-line shopping we do.

I ran back in and picked up a bunch of shoes left by the door. Tried to stuff them in the front closet, but it was overflowing with heavy coats and work coats and snow coats and pretty coats and raincoats and extra coats. We live in the South; why'd we buy so many coats? I squeezed the shoes in with two minutes to go.

I plumped up sofa pillows, my wife tossed dishes into the sink, I scolded the kids, and she shoed the dog. With one minute left I

realized something important: Getting ready for a visit from Jesus is not an eight-minute job.

Then the doorbell rang.

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1 of 1

Doug Mendenhall, "Getting Prepared for the Arrival of Jesus," www.reporternews.com (9-24-09); submitted by Kevin Miller, executive vice president, Christianity Today International

Luke 3:10–20 (NASB95)

¹⁰And the crowds were questioning him, saying, "Then what shall we do?"

¹¹And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."

¹²And some tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"

¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to."

¹⁴Some soldiers were questioning him, saying, "And what about us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Christ,

¹⁶John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

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

John uses this analogy of wheat and chaff.

Wind winnowing is an agricultural method developed by ancient cultures for separating grain from chaff. It is also used to remove weevils or other pests from stored grain. In its simplest form it involves throwing the mixture into the air so that the wind blows away the lighter chaff, while the heavier grains fall back down for recovery. Techniques included using a winnowing fan (a shaped basket shaken to raise the chaff) or using a tool (a winnowing fork or shovel) on a pile of harvested grain.

18So with many other exhortations he preached the gospel to the people.

19But when Herod the tetrarch was reprimanded by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the wicked things which Herod had done,

20Herod also added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.

Matthew 14:3–12 (NASB95)

3For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip.

4For John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.”

5Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet.

6But when Herod’s birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod,

⁷so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked.

⁸Having been prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist."

⁹Although he was grieved, the king commanded it to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests.

¹⁰He sent and had John beheaded in the prison.

¹¹And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.

¹²His disciples came and took away the body and buried it; and they went and reported to Jesus.

William Tyndale

Most known for his translation of the Bible into English, William Tyndale was a reformer who stood against many teachings of the Catholic Church and opposed King Henry VIII's divorce, which was one of the major issues in the Reformation. Tyndale's English translation of the Bible was the first to draw significantly from the original languages.

Tyndale was choked to death while tied to the stake and then his dead body was burned.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer was executed on June 9, 1945. I hesitated to include Bonhoeffer in this list because he was not martyred strictly for his Christian beliefs. He was executed because of his involvement in the July 20 Plot to kill Adolf Hitler. Bonhoeffer staunchly opposed Hitler's

treatment of the Jews. As a Christian pastor he could not sit idly by and watch the murder of so many men and women.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was hanged just two weeks before soldiers from the United States liberated the concentration camp in which he was held.

Jim Elliot and Four Missionary Friends

Jim Elliot, along with four of his missionary colleagues was killed on January 8, 1956 while trying to establish contact with the Auca Indians in Ecuador (now known as the Waodani people). Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Ed McCully, Pete Flemming and Roger Youderian had been working to make friendly contact with the Auca tribe which they had seen from the air. Though they had only met one tribesman face to face, they had participated in trades with the Auca from a plane to ground system. When Elliot and his friends landed on a river beach on that fateful January day they were slaughtered by the waiting men.

Their deaths were not in vain though. The widows continued to try and make peaceful contact and eventually won the hearts of the tribe. God has used this recent missionary martyr story to inspire new generations of missionaries willing to give their lives for what they believe.

Hebrews 11:36–40 (AMP)

³⁶Others had to suffer the trial of mocking and scourging and even chains and imprisonment.

³⁷They were stoned to death; they were lured with tempting offers [to renounce their faith]; they were sawn asunder; they were slaughtered by the sword; [while they were alive] they had to go about wrapped in the skins of

sheep and goats, utterly destitute, oppressed, cruelly treated—

³⁸[Men] of whom the world was not worthy—roaming over the desolate places and the mountains, and [living] in caves and caverns and holes of the earth.

³⁹And all of these, though they won divine approval by [means of] their faith, did not receive the fulfillment of what was promised,

⁴⁰Because God had us in mind and had something better and greater in view for us, so that they [these heroes and heroines of faith] should not come to perfection apart from us [before we could join them].

Luke 3:21–22 (NASB95)

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also

²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

Matthew 3:13–15 (NASB95)

¹³Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him.

¹⁴But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?”

¹⁵But Jesus answering said to him, “Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he permitted Him.

Randy Frazee - I heard another story of a minister who was doing baptisms and a guy came to be baptized and the minister asked

him why he wanted to be baptized. And he says, "I'm looking for Jesus." And so the pastor holds him down and brings him up, and he says to him, "Did you find Jesus?" And he said, "Well, no." So he takes him down again, brings him back up and he says, "Did you find Jesus?" He said, "No." Takes him down a third time and brings him back up, and he said, "Did you find Jesus?" And the guy finally says, "Pastor, I don't think he's down there."

Matthew 28:18–20 (NASB95)

¹⁸And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Romans 6:3–7 (NASB95)

³Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

⁴Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

⁶knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

⁷for he who has died is freed from sin.

Galatians 3:27 (NASB95)

²⁷For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Acts 16:31–33 (NASB95)

³¹They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

³³And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

Romans 6:1–2 (NASB95)

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

²May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

We believe in and practice the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. We believe that through the waters of Baptism, God comes to us to adopt us as His children. Through Baptism, God gives the gift of new life. We affirm the baptism of infants.

Acts 2:21 (AMP)

²¹And it shall be that whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord [invoking, adoring, and worshiping the Lord—Christ] shall be saved.

Acts 2:38–39 (NASB95)

³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹“For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NASB95)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Matthew 3:15 But Jesus answering said to him, “Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he permitted Him.

Mark Driscoll interviewed his children and asked this question and here are some of their answers:

One of my kids said, “Well, he was crucified between two thieves. Why couldn’t he be baptized between two sinners? If he could go to the cross and be identified with the sinners, why couldn’t he go to the Jordan and be identified with the sinners?”

“Well, maybe he was just showing us how we need to get baptized.” He was perhaps setting the precedent for

Christian baptism. So at the end of Matthew's gospel when he says, "Go forth into all the nations and baptize people," you say, "Well, how do we baptize them?" Well, Jesus was an adult, buried in the water, taken out, showing his death, burial, resurrection; we get buried like Jesus in baptism, we're raised to newness of life in Jesus. That's how it works.

Luke 3:21–22 (NASB95)

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened,

²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."