

## What Should We Do?

Luke 3: 10-28

Third Week of Advent 2015

This is the question that the crowds, the tax collectors and the soldiers asked John. His message is for us to change our overall behavior. We should, if we truly wish to follow Christ, be open to being transformed in a radical way this Advent. We should act differently when the Christmas season arrives. Sounds like hard work to me. So, what should we do?

John answers this question with a very specific outline that sounds a lot like a social justice mindset. We are to give ourselves away. The hallmark of Christianity is to be self-sacrificing. The crowd is curious as to what this means. John's answer is direct, **"Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."**

The tax collectors ask next what is required. **"Stop collecting more than is prescribed."** John is asking them to abandon their additional usury fee. In other words, stop penalizing the people for being poor by adding on an extra charge to the money you collect for the Romans.

Finally, the soldiers ask, **"And what is it that we should do?"** John now has a list... **"Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."**

It sounds as if we are to be generous, kind, fair, and satisfied with the blessings that are already ours and then share them with the world. That is not always an easy thing to accomplish. I am resistant to a radical transformation of how I am to live. I am not always generous. I am not always kind or fair. And during this time of year where there is unlimited wanting and excess... I catch myself being ever dissatisfied.

The hope of this week is in the final message from John. **"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."**

We must pray, practice and pray more that the coming Messiah will open our hearts in a radical way this year, giving us a new-found freedom and joy to proclaim the Good News of His birth that will ultimately change our mind-set and behavior toward the well-being of others.

Happy Advent,

  
Sue Schettler

December 16, 2018

# The Season of Advent



Readings for the  
Third Week  
of Advent

## Readings for the week of December 16, 2018

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18  
Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17  
Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25  
Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25  
Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38  
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45  
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56  
Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



Week 3

Thanks to

Nicole, James, Kelsey and  
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for lighting the Advent Wreath  
this week.



Take

time during  
Advent to go to the  
sacrament of  
Reconciliation!

Reconciliation is an  
opportunity to honestly  
look at our life, seeking  
the way God wants us  
to live! And then  
making those  
adjustments.