



Today's Message

Date: February 9, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *John the Baptist: "I Am Not the Christ"*

Text: Luke 3:15–18 (ESV)

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

Introduction: As John the Baptist preached the gospel of the Kingdom and immanent unveiling of Israel's King, the crowds who heard him wondered if John might be the promised Messiah. John emphatically declared, "I am not the Christ" (John 1:20). In Luke's account, John stresses the vast difference between himself and the Christ.

Today's take-home truth: Jesus, our King is the almighty and glorious Judge who saves and condemns.

- I. **The people's expectation: Many had a deep longing for the Christ. 15**

- A. The Messianic Expectation ran throughout the Old Testament, so their longing was great.
- B. The Messianic Expectation was often fueled by misplaced motives.

II. John's Messianic Promise: "I am not the Christ, but he is about to arrive." 16-17

- A. The Christ has greater might.
- B. The Christ deserves greater honor.
- C. The Christ brings a greater baptism.
 - 1. He baptizes ("the wheat") with the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. He baptizes ("the chaff") with fire.

III. A summary of John's message: He preached the good news. 18

- A. Gospel preaching must exalt Christ as Judge . . .
- B. who brings salvation . . .
- C. and condemnation.