

The Message and Witness of John the Baptist

Message - to the Pharisees, Sadducees, multitudes, tax-gatherers, and soldiers

JCV Integrated Text **Matthew 3:7-10, Luke 3:7-14**

Now he said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him (having seen many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to [see] his Baptism), “Brood of vipers, who forewarned you to flee from the coming wrath? So produce fruit worthy of changed-thinking. And do not presume to begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. And even now the axe is set to the root of the trees. So every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down, and cast into *the fire*.”

So the crowds were asking him, saying, “What then shall we do?” And answering them he replied, “Whoever has two tunics can share with him who has none, and whoever has food can do the same.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they asked “Teacher, what should we do?” So he said to them, “Collect nothing more above what has been prescribed for you.”

Then those who were soldiers were asking him too, saying “And what should we do?” And he said to them, “Don’t shake people up to then report trouble, and be content with your wages.”

The people were expectant and were all wondering in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ.

Verse	JCV synthesised translation	WEB - World English Bible	BIB - Berean Interlinear Bible	JCV translation notes
Matthew 3:7	Now having seen many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers, who forewarned you to flee from the coming wrath?	But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?	Ίδων (Having seen) δὲ (now) πολλούς (many) τῶν (of the) Φαρισαίων (Pharisees) καὶ (and) Σαδδουκαίων (Sadducees) ἐρχομένους (coming) ἐπὶ (to) τὸ (the) βάπτισμα (baptism) αὐτοῦ (of him), εἶπεν (he said) αὐτοῖς (to them), “Γεννήματα (Brood) ἔχιδνῶν (of vipers), τίς (who) ὑπέδειξεν (forewarned) ὑμῖν (you) φυγεῖν (to flee) ἀπὸ (from) τῆς (the) μελλούσης (coming) ὄργης (wrath)?	
Matthew 3:8	So produce fruit worthy of changed-thinking.	Therefore bring forth fruit worthy of repentance!	ποιήσατε (Produce) οὖν (therefore) καρπὸν (fruit) ἀξιον (worthy) τῆς (-) μετανοίας (of repentance).	
Matthew 3:9	And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.	Don't think to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I tell you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.	καὶ (And) μὴ (not) δόξητε (presume) λέγειν (to say) ἐν (within) ἑαυτοῖς (yourselves), 'Πατέρα (<i>As</i> father) ἔχομεν (we have) τὸν (-) Ἀβραάμ (Abraham).' λέγω (I say) γὰρ (for) ὑμῖν (to you) ὅτι (that) δύναται (able is) ὁ (-) Θεὸς (God) ἐκ (out of) τῶν (the) λίθων (stones) τούτων (these) ἐγεῖραι (to raise up) τέκνα (children) τῷ (unto) Ἀβραάμ (Abraham).	
Matthew 3:10	Even now the axe is set to the root of the trees. So every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down, and cast into the fire.	"Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't bring forth good fruit is cut down, and cast into the fire.	ἢδη (Already) δὲ (now) ἡ (the) ἀξίνη (ax) πρὸς (to) τὴν (the) ρίζαν (root) τῶν (of the) δένδρων (trees) κεῖται (is applied); πᾶν (every) οὖν (therefore) δένδρον (tree) μὴ (not) ποιοῦν (producing) καρπὸν (fruit) καλὸν (good) ἐκκόπτεται (is cut down) καὶ (and) εἰς (into) πῦρ (<i>the</i> fire) βάλλεται (is thrown).	
Luke 3:7	So he said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers, who forewarned you to flee from the coming wrath?	He said therefore to the multitudes who went out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?	Ἐλεγεν (He was saying) οὖν (therefore) τοῖς (to the) ἐκπορευομένοις (coming out) ὥχλοις (crowds) βαπτισθῆναι (to be baptized) ὑπ' (by) αὐτοῦ (him), “Γεννήματα (Offspring) ἔχιδνῶν (of vipers), τίς (who) ὑπέδειξεν (forewarned) ὑμῖν (you) φυγεῖν (to flee) ἀπὸ (from) τῆς (the) μελλούσης (coming) ὄργης (wrath)?	

Luke 3:8	So produce fruit worthy of changed-thinking. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.	Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and don’t begin to say among yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father,’ for I tell you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones!	ποιήσατε (Produce) οὖν (therefore) καρποὺς (fruits) ἀξίους (worthy) τῆς (-) μετανοίας (of repentance); καὶ (and) μὴ (not) ἅρχησθε (begin) λέγειν (to say) ἐν (in) ἑαυτοῖς (yourselves), ‘Πατέρα (<i>As</i> father) ἔχομεν (We have) τὸν (-) Ἀβραάμ (Abraham).’ λέγω (I say) γὰρ (for) ὑμῖν (to you), ὅτι (that) δύναται (is able) ὁ (-) Θεός (God) ἐκ (from) τῶν (-) λίθων (stones) τούτων (these) ἐγεῖραι (to raise up) τέκνα (children) τῷ (-) Ἀβραάμ (to Abraham).	
Luke 3:9	And even now the axe is set to the root of the trees. So every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down, and cast into <i>the</i> fire.	Even now the axe also lies at the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that doesn’t bring forth good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire.”	ἡδη (Already) δὲ (now) καὶ (also) ἡ (the) ἀξίνη (ax) πρὸς (to) τὴν (the) ρίζαν (root) τῶν (of the) δένδρων (trees) κεῖται (is applied); πᾶν (every) οὖν (therefore) δένδρον (tree) μὴ (not) ποιοῦν (producing) καρπὸν (fruit) καλὸν (good) ἐκκόπτεται (is cut down) καὶ (and) εἰς (into) πῦρ (<i>the</i> fire) βάλλεται (is thrown).	
Luke 3:10	So the crowds were asking him, saying, “What then shall we do?”	The multitudes asked him, “What then must we do?”	Καὶ (And) ἐπηρώτων (were asking) αὐτὸν (him) οἱ (the) ὄχλοι (crowds), λέγοντες (saying), “Τί (What) οὖν (then) ποιήσωμεν (shall we do)?”	
Luke 3:11	And answering them he replied, “Whoever has two tunics can share with him who has none, and whoever has food can do the same.”	He answered them, “He who has two coats, let him give to him who has none. He who has food, let him do likewise.”	Ἀποκριθεὶς (Answering) δὲ (now), ἔλεγεν (he was saying) αὐτοῖς (to them), “Ο (The <i>one</i>) ἔχων (having) δύο (two) χιτῶνας (tunics), μεταδότω (let him impart) τῷ (to the <i>one</i>) μὴ (none) ἔχοντι (having); καὶ (and) ὁ (the <i>one</i>) ἔχων (having) βρώματα (food), ὁμοίως (likewise) ποιείτω (let him do).”	
Luke 3:12	Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they asked “Teacher, what should we do?”	Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, “Teacher, what must we do?”	Ἔλθον (Came) δὲ (then) καὶ (also) τελῶναι (tax collectors) βαπτισθῆναι (to be baptized), καὶ (and) εἶπαν (they said) πρὸς (to) αὐτὸν (him), “Διδάσκαλε (Teacher), τί (what) ποιήσωμεν (shall we do)?”	
Luke 3:13	So he said to them, “Collect nothing more above what has been prescribed for you.”	He said to them, “Collect no more than that which is appointed to you.”	Ο (-) δὲ (And) εἶπεν (he said) πρὸς (to) αὐτούς (them), “Μηδὲν (Nothing) πλέον (more) παρὰ (beyond) τὸ (that) διατεταγμένον (having been appointed) ὑμῖν (to you) πράσσετε (collect).”	

Luke 3:14	<p>Then those who were soldiers were asking him too, saying "And what should we do?" And he said to them, "Don't shake people up to then report trouble, and be content with your wages."</p>	<p>Soldiers also asked him, saying, "What about us? What must we do?" He said to them, "Extort from no one by violence, neither accuse anyone wrongfully. Be content with your wages."</p>	<p>Ἐπηρώτων (Were asking) δὲ (then) αὐτὸν (him) καὶ (also) στρατεύομενοι (those being soldiers), λέγοντες (saying), "Τί (What) ποιήσωμεν (shall do) καὶ (also) ἡμεῖς (we)?" Καὶ (And) εἶπεν (he said) αὐτοῖς (to them), "Μηδένα (No one) διασείσητε (extort) μηδὲ (nor) συκοφαντήσητε (accuse falsely), καὶ (and) ἀρκεῖσθε (be content with) τοῖς (the) ὀψωνίοις (wages) ύμῶν (of you)."</p>	<p>Most translations miss the colour in this verse. First διασείσητε (extort) literally means to "thoroughly shake or agitate" then συκοφαντήσητε (accuse falsely) gives us the English word Sycophant it originally meant to be a "fig-informer", someone who got people in trouble for minor crimes i.e breaking the fig export ban!</p>
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Witness - of the Christ to come**JCV Integrated Text Matthew 3:11-12 , Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:15-18**

John answered saying to all of them, "I in fact baptize you with water towards re-thinking-things, but after me the one mightier than I is coming whose sandals I am not worthy to carry [nor] stoop down to untie . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Whose winnowing fork is in His hand to sift His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn. But He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

So in fact, with many other encouragements he brought good news to the people.

Verse	JCV synthesised translation	WEB - World English Bible	BIB - Berean Interlinear Bible	JCV translation notes
Matthew 3:11	I in fact baptize you with water towards re-thinking-things, but after me will come He who is mightier than me whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.	I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.	Ἐγώ (I) μὲν (indeed) ὑμᾶς (you) βαπτίζω (baptize) ἐν (with) ὕδατι (water) εἰς (to) μετάνοιαν (repentance), ὁ (-) δὲ (but) ὥπλος (after) μου (me) ἐρχόμενος (is coming) ἰσχυρότερός (mightier) μού (than I), ἐστιν (He) οὐ (of whom) οὐκ (not) εἰμὶ (I am) ικανός (fit) τὰ (the) ὑποδήματα (sandals) βαστάσαι (to carry). αὐτὸς (He) ὑμᾶς (you) βαπτίσει (will baptize) ἐν (with) Πνεύματι (<i>the</i> Spirit) Ἅγιῳ (Holy) καὶ (and) πυρὶ (with fire),	
Matthew 3:12	His winnowing fork is in His hand to sift His threshing floor and to gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."	His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire."	οὗ (whose) τὸ (-) πτύον (winnowing fork <i>is</i>) ἐν (in) τῇ (the) χειρὶ (hand) αὐτοῦ (of Him); καὶ (and) διακαθαρίσῃ (He will clear) τὴν (the) ἄλωνα (threshing floor) αὐτοῦ (of Him) καὶ (and) συνάξῃ (will gather) τὸν (the) σῖτον (wheat) αὐτοῦ (of Him) εἰς (into) τὴν (the) ἀποθήκην (barn); τὸ (the) δέ (but) ἄχυρον (chaff) κατακαύσει (He will burn up) πυρὶ (with fire) ἀσβέστῳ (unquenchable)."	

Mark 1:7	And he was preaching, saying "He who comes after me is mightier than me, I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the straps of his sandals.	He preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loosen.	καὶ (And) ἐκήρυσσεν (he was preaching), λέγων (saying), "Ἐρχεται (He comes) ὁ (who) ἰσχυρότερός (<i>is</i> mightier) μου (than I) ὥπισω (after) μου (me), οὐ (of whom) οὐκ (not) εἰμί (I am) ικανός (sufficient), κύψας (having stooped down), λῦσαι (to untie) τὸν (the) ιμάντα (strap) τῶν (of the) ὑποδημάτων (sandals) αὐτοῦ (of Him).	
Mark 1:8	I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."	I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."	ἐγώ (I) ἐβάπτισα (baptized) ύμᾶς (you) ὕδατι (with water); αὐτὸς (He) δὲ (however) βαπτίσει (will baptize) ύμᾶς (you) ἐν (with) Πνεύματι (<i>the</i> Spirit) Άγιῳ (Holy)."	
Luke 3:15	The people were expectant and were all wondering in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ.	As the people were in expectation, and all men reasoned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he was the Christ,	Προσδοκῶντος (Are expecting) δὲ (then) τοῦ (the) λαοῦ (people) καὶ (and) διαλογιζομένων (wondering) πάντων (all) ἐν (in) ταῖς (the) καρδίαις (hearts) αὐτῶν (of them) περὶ (concerning) τοῦ (-) Ιωάννου (John), μή (whether) ποτε (ever) αὐτὸς (he) εἴη (might be) ὁ (the) Χριστός (Christ).	
Luke 3:16	John answered saying to all of them, "I in fact baptize you with water, but the <i>one</i> mightier than I is coming. The straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire,	John answered them all, "I indeed baptize you with water, but he comes who is mightier than I, the latchet of whose sandals I am not worthy to loosen. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire,	ἀπεκρίνατο (Answered) λέγων (saying) πᾶσιν (<i>to</i> all) ὁ (-) Ιωάννης (John), "Ἐγώ (I) μὲν (indeed) ὕδατι (with water) βαπτίζω (baptize) ύμᾶς (you); ἔρχεται (comes) δὲ (however) ὁ (the) <i>One</i> ἰσχυρότερός (mightier) μου (than I), οὐ (of whom) οὐκ (not) εἰμί (I am) ικανός (worthy) λῦσαι (to untie) τὸν (the) ιμάντα (strap) τῶν (of the) ὑποδημάτων (sandals) αὐτοῦ (of Him); αὐτὸς (He) ύμᾶς (you) βαπτίσει (will baptize) ἐν (with) Πνεύματι (<i>the</i> Spirit) Άγιῳ (Holy), καὶ (and) πυρί (with fire),	
Luke 3:17	whose winnowing fork is in His hand to sift His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn. But He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."	whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor, and will gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."	οὖ (of whom) τὸ (the) πτύον (winnowing fork) <i>is</i> ἐν (in) τῇ (the) χειρὶ (hand) αὐτοῦ (of Him), διακαθῆται (to clear) τὴν (the) ἄλωνα (threshing floor) αὐτοῦ (of Him) καὶ (and) συναγαγεῖν (to gather) τὸν (the) σῖτον (wheat) εἰς (into) τὴν (the) ἀποθήκην (barn) αὐτοῦ (of Him). τὸ (-) δὲ (But) ἄχυρον (the chaff) κατακαύσει (He will burn up) πυρὶ (with fire) ἀσβέστω (unquenchable)."	

Luke 3:18	So in fact, with many other encouragements he brought good news to the people.	Then with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people,	Πολλὰ (Many) μὲν (indeed) οὖν (therefore) καὶ (other) ἔτερα (things) παρακαλῶν (exhorting), εὐηγγελίζετο (he was preaching the good news to) τὸν (the) λαόν (people).	Note that "brought good news" is the word evangelised
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Note: Very occasionally I have added an additional word of my own as an aid to the flow of the story. In order to be as transparent as possible these additional words are highlighted either with *italics* or [square brackets].

- *Italicised Words* - These are words which are inferred by the biblical text - eg 'in the beginning'
- [Square Brackets] – This indicates an additional word which is not inferred directly from the biblical text but helps with the flow and understanding of the English