

Feb. 21 - Scripture: Luke 3: 1-38

A verse that speaks to you: "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance". vs. 8

Observation: Who's your Daddy? John the Baptist is going ALL around the country preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He is telling people they need to produce fruit in keeping with repentance. That it doesn't matter who is in their earthly family line, it matters what THEY themselves do. And they ask him, "What should we do?" John gives it to them straight: Start sharing with those in need. Stop cheating and lying. Be content. John wasn't afraid to tell even those who had the power to lock him up to stop doing evil. And he did get locked up. But John spoke truth and did what God asked of him. The scriptures then turn to Jesus' baptism and the words of God declaring "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." And then funny enough, it turns to the family line of Joseph, who it was THOUGHT to be Jesus' father. Yes, it's a good line: Levi, David, Judah, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham. But what really matters: He is God's Son. And He pleases Him.

Application: My family line is important to me. I have 2 sets of loving parents: my own and David's. But God is my Father. I asked Him to forgive me for my sins 13 years ago. I turned to God. I was baptized. And I turned from sin. Yes, I still sin, but I don't want to. I want to please God. If we turn to God we have to turn from our sins. If you don't turn from your sins, you have not really turned to God. It's a hard message. But repentance is involved in salvation.

Prayer: Lord Jesus. Precious Lamb who takes away our sins, please forgive us for wanting to receive the grace of God yet not turn from our sinful ways. We long to hear the words, "You are my daughter, my son, whom I love and are well pleased." Help us to produce fruit in our lives that will show the world who our Daddy is! In the loving name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Writer: Sandy Beckwith, married to David--who thankfully wouldn't stop talking about Jesus 13 years ago, and mother to Jamie, Katie and Laney--whom I love and are well pleased, but who are even more loved by their Father in Heaven. I am trusting in that love for them.