

Series: Lasting Impact

December 7, 2025

Title: The Urgent Challenge

Scripture: Luke 3:17-18

### **Getting to know you Questions:**

1. What's something silly you get way too urgent about (parking spot, Wi-Fi signal, drive-thru line, etc.)?
2. What's the most "urgent" snack run you've ever made?

### **Into the Bible Questions:**

**Read Luke 3:15-18** - *15As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, 16John 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. 17His 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." 18So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.*

1. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?
2. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?
3. How does our culture's idea of "urgency" differ from the kind of urgency John calls for?
4. How does John describe Jesus in verse 17, and why is that description surprising to many people today?
5. What does the image of the winnowing fork and threshing floor teach us about Jesus' role as judge?
6. Why is it uncomfortable for many people to think of Jesus as both Savior *and* Judge?
7. How does this passage help you understand God's justice and love working together?
8. Why does the person who believes in Jesus' death for their sins not need to worry about Hell and God's just wrath toward them?
9. Why is it dangerous to assume we have plenty of time to deal with our sin or faith?

*For Extra Study, Read Malachi 4:1-5*

1. *What picture of judgment does Malachi use, and how does it compare to John's image in Luke 3?*
2. *How does the phrase "the day is coming" remind us of the urgency of God's plan?*
3. *How do verses 1–2 show both warning and hope?*
4. *How does God's justice ultimately bring healing, not just punishment?*
5. *How can the promise of restoration motivate believers to share the gospel urgently?*
6. *How does John the Baptist fulfill Elijah's role in preparing people for Jesus' coming?*
7. *What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?*
8. *Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.*

### **Application Questions:**

1. Where in your life are you living with urgency in the *wrong* areas?
2. How can you begin to shift that urgency toward things that matter eternally?
3. What would change about your week if you saw every moment as an opportunity to practice "discipleship" or represent Jesus?
4. Who in your life needs to hear the good news of Jesus from you?
5. How can you live in such a way that others see your peace, not panic, in how you prioritize life?
6. What habits or distractions tend to dull your sense of urgency for making disciples?
7. How can you be both urgent *and* patient in making disciples?
8. Is there someone you've been putting off inviting into a discipleship relationship? What's holding you back?
9. Which type of person do you most often encounter — the skeptic, spectator, seeker, or new believer — and how can you intentionally care for or engage them this week?
10. Who in your life could you begin meeting with regularly to help one another grow in loving God, loving others, and living for Jesus?
11. What might change in your relationships if you really believed Jesus is present with you every time you meet in His name?