

# Thought for the Day

Saturday December 14, 2024

## Today's Scripture:

**As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

~ Luke 3: 15-16

## Thoughts on Today's Verse(s):

I suppose we can't blame the folks who came out to the Jordan for wondering if maybe John was the messiah. After all, he spoke with such force and power that it was clear he had been inspired by God to baptize as he did. Yet, when John the Baptist became aware that folks might be concluding that he was The One long promised in the Holy scriptures, he was quick to point to Jesus; The Holy and Anointed Son of God who was truly The Savior and The One Whom God had sent. This was not an act of false humility - it was the truth.

Friends, there are many, many men and women that God has chosen and inspired to be His messengers and servants in the world today. However, some of them are not that humble. Offered praise and thanks for their ministries and what they are doing for the kingdom, they are not that quick, not as quick as John, to point out that it all comes from God. They far too easily find gratification and satisfaction in what they perceive to be what *they* have accomplished. This should be a warning sign to anyone who tends to follow such ministers, lay or clergy alike.

In fact, this brings light to a truth we should all consider. That is: we must *never* find ourselves prone to follow and idolize anyone we perceive to be righteous in our own eyes. Yes, we may have Christian mentors in our lives and we aspire to be as faithful as they, but, we must stop to realize that they are chosen by God, inspired by The Holy Spirit and they are followers of Jesus, not of themselves nor anyone else. Thus, it always comes back to The Holy One, Jesus, who truly baptizes with fire and The Holy Spirit. It never comes down to a human.

The psalmist wrote in #146, "*Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.*" Let us put all our hope in Jesus for He alone is our Lord and our God, just as Thomas realized (John 20:28). Let us not make the mistake of putting our trust in humans instead of God for they will inevitably let us down. Jesus will *never* let us down.

## Prayer:

**Lord Jesus Christ, You Alone are The Holy One. You alone are The Lord. You alone are The Most High. Forgive us in ministry who have ever concluded that we have accomplished anything. When confronted with praise or compliment, may we always be as quick as John to point to You. Everything starts and ends with You; You are The Alpha and Omega. Caution and deter us from following people instead of You for even the most seasoned and faithful men and women of God are simply human and broken and inferior. May we learn to always put our trust in You rather than princes or kings or leaned folks for You alone are worthy of our praise and worship.**

**We pray in Your Holy Name Above All Names, Amen.**