



# Daily Reflections

**December 16, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Luke 3: 10-18**

The crowds asked John the Baptist,

“What should we do?”

He said to them in reply,

“Whoever has two cloaks

should share with the person who has none.

And whoever has food should do likewise.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him,

“Teacher, what should we do?”

He answered them,

“Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.”

Soldiers also asked him,

“And what is it that we should do?”

He told them,

“Do not practice extortion,

do not falsely accuse anyone,

and be satisfied with your wages.”

Now the people were filled with expectation,

and all were asking in their hearts

whether John might be the Christ.

John answered them all, saying,

“I am baptizing you with water,

but one mightier than I is coming.

I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.  
His winnowing fan 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.”  
Exhorting them in many other ways.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

In today’s Gospel text from St. Luke, John acts like a personal physician for those whose lives have been impacted by sin but who want to make serious changes. They are humble enough to dare come to him and ask for him to pronounce judgment on their lives. They are eager to accept John’s prescription for what is necessary to bring about genuine repentance and conversion. If you dared to ask John, what would he say to you?

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## **Food for your Journey**

Jim Moore is a minister of St. Luke's in Houston, Texas. At a breakfast with a friend, who is now a sales representative for a large national company, the friend told Dr. Moore about a recent exchange with his new sales manager.

It seems Moore's friend was driving his new boss around town when they happened to pass near the friend's home. This friend asked the new sales manager if he would like to stop by his house and meet his family. His wife was baking an apple pie, and his children would be coming in from school. Would he like to meet them?

"Let's get one thing straight right now," the manager replied. "I'm not interested in your family. I'm not interested in your wife or your children. I'm not interested in you personally at all or any of the circumstances of your life. All I'm interested in are results. All I'm interested in about you is your sales record!"

The friend told Moore: "That really hurt. I felt as though someone had slapped me across the face, but you know, I realized something. I realized that God is the opposite of that! God is interested in my home and family. God is interested in my wife and children. God does care about me personally. He is interested in all of the circumstances of my life."

Dr. Moore adds: "That is the good news of Christmas."

-- James W. Moore,

Christmas Gifts That Always Fit  
(Nashville: Dimensions for the Living, 1996), 64-65.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Gracious Father, You are not an impersonal power out there somewhere in the universe. You are, as the great Saint Augustine once said, "Closer to me than I am to myself." You showed Your closeness most supremely by sending Your only Son, Jesus. Lord, in a world that is so impersonal, help me to appreciate Your closeness and grow in my closeness to You. Amen