

# 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year C)



## Luke 3:10-18

*'And we, what shall we do?'*

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorised to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise 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 baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His 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.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.'

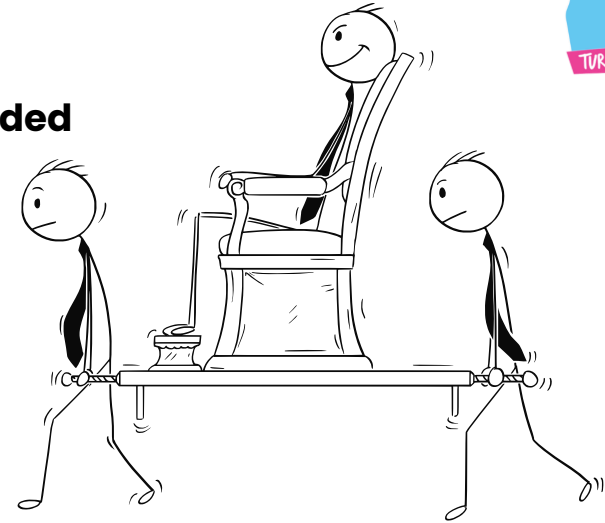
## Reflection

In this reading, John the Baptist addresses three different groups who each hold a certain level of influence. His core message to each is clear; be fair, act with justice, and share what you have. Imagine asking John, "What should we do?" His answer would likely emphasise kindness, justice, and generosity. He encourages the crowd to share their resources with those in need.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society's Mission Statement echoes this message, calling on members to "share who they are and what they have with the poor on a person-to-person basis." As Christians and members of Youth SVP, we are reminded to share our time and possessions with others—especially at Christmas.

## Materials needed

- Paper and pens
- A basket



## Activity

- Briefly remind everyone of John the Baptist's message about kindness and sharing. Emphasise the importance of being generous, especially during the Advent season.
- Ask each participant to take a moment to think about one thing they can do to share with others this season—this could be giving time, resources, or acts of kindness.
- Each participant is then to quickly write down their idea on a small piece of paper and fold it.
- Collect all the folded papers in the bowl or basket. You can then either read some of the ideas aloud, or encourage participants to share their intentions with someone next to them.
- Close with a short prayer or a moment of silence, asking for strength and inspiration to act on these ideas and to support one another in sharing during the season.

## Call to Action

- Spread the Word.
- Share your goal with at least three friends or family members.
- Encourage them to set their own goals and join you in the challenge - This is how we can create a ripple effect of generosity within our community!