

January 13, 2019

Winnowing

### **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*The metaphor of winnowing refers to the process of using the wind to separate usable grain from the husks and straw that are discarded. While there is waste to be discarded in both metaphors, and the implications of that cannot be glossed over in terms of accountability to God, the whole purpose of both refining and winnowing is to end up with something usable. That is, the process is not for the purpose of destroying the waste, but for enabling that which is useful for service (D Bratcher, 2018).*

*According to Luke, all we know about the baptism of Jesus is that it was with “all the people”—but maybe that is what the church has sometimes forgotten. Jesus presented Himself for baptism as an act of solidarity with a nation and a world of sinners. Jesus simply got in line with everyone who had been broken by the “wear and tear” of this selfish world and had all but given up on themselves and their God. When the line of downtrodden and sin-sick people formed in hopes of new beginnings through a return to God, Jesus joined them. At His baptism, Jesus identified with the damaged and broken people who needed God (Robert Brearley, 2009).*

#### **January Discipleship:**

With Christ’s example in mind and heart, get better acquainted with one or more individuals and/or families over a meal before the end of the month. Share your experience with Pastor with a short note.

**Next week:** *John 2:1-11*

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

**Today:** *Psalm 29*

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**Monday:** *Matthew 2:13-18*

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**Tuesday:** *John 1:1-13*

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**Wednesday:** *John 1:35-42*

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**Thursday:** *2 Corinthians 11:1-15*

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**Friday:** *2 Corinthians 11:16-30*

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**Saturday:** *Matthew 10:34-39*

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*Be merciful to me, Oh God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by. Psalm 57:1*

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