

## §16: JOHN REPLIES TO QUESTIONERS (ABOUT REPENTANCE)

### Luke 3:10–14

#### Crowds

3:10–11

**10** And the crowds were questioning him, saying: What then shall we do?

**11** And he would answer and say to them:

He who has two tunics, let him share with him who has none;  
and he who has food, let him do likewise.

#### Tax-Collectors

3:12–13

**12** And also tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they said to him: Teacher, what shall we do?

**13** And he said to them: Collect no more beyond what is commanded to you.

#### Soldiers

3:14

**14** And soldiers also were questioning him, saying: What shall we, even we, do?

And he said to them: Do not take money from anyone by violence,  
nor accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.

### Notes

1. **Tax-collectors (3:12).** “Contracts for collecting taxes in a region were farmed out, usually to wealthy foreigners. They in turn hired local inhabitants to collect taxes... Sometimes community leaders were forced to collect taxes in their districts. The publicans were personally responsible for paying the taxes to the government, but they were in turn free to collect extra taxes from the people in order to make a profit. Opportunities for theft, fraud, and corruption abounded and tax collectors were generally despised...” (*Harper’s Bible Dictionary*, pg. 841 under “publicans”).
2. **Violence (3:14).** Lit. “to shake violently.”
3. **Wages (3:14).** The earlier meaning was “ration-moneys.” The word is found 3 more times in the N.T., once parallel the use here in 1 Cor. 9:7; once referring to wages of an evangelist in 2 Cor. 11:8; once of the wages of sin in Rom. 6:23.