

**16 December 2012 - Third Sunday of Advent.**

**Readings:** Zeph. 3:14–20; Isaiah 12:2–6; Philip. 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18.

**Do-Be-Do-Be-Do – Luke 3:8**, “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up **children** for Abraham.”



**INTRO:** “To be is to do – Socrates. To do is to be – Sartre. Do Be Do Be Do - Frank Sinatra.” - Kurt Vonnegut. Christian = Be and Do.



**I. DO BE BORN AGAIN.**

**Luke 3:8**, “And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘**We have Abraham as our father.**’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.”

A problem of BEING cannot be solved by DOING.

Many people think and try to do this. “I’m Lutheran; I’ve been baptised and confirmed,” “I’ve had this or that done,” or “I do this.” “But are you a Christian?” Jesus would ask, “Are you born-again?”

**John 3:3, 6-7**, “Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again**... Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘**You must be born again.**’”

The hardest lesson to learn: God doesn’t love us because of what we’ve done or haven’t done, or what has or hasn’t been done to us.

God loves us for who we are: Human-**beings** not human-doings.

**2 Corinthians 13:5**, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are **in the faith**; test yourselves. Do you not realize that **Christ Jesus is in you**—unless, of course, you fail the test?”

**Baptism liturgy:** “**Remind** him/her of his baptism...”



## II. DO BE TAUGHT.

**Luke 3:10**, “**What** should we **do** then?’ the crowd asked.” (vss. 10, 12, 14). What a GREAT question! The Pentecost question (Acts 2).

**Proverbs 22:6**, “**Train a child in the way he should go**, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

**Baptism liturgy**: “...**provide** for his/her instruction in the faith. **Do** you intend to **do** this? (If so, say ‘Yes, I **do**’.)”

*Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, Teach, your children well, their father's hell, did slowly go by, And feed, them on your dreams, the one they picked, the one you're known by... Teach, your parents well, their children's hell, will slowly go by. And feed, them on your dreams, the one they picked, the one you're known by.*



### A. To SHARE.

**Luke 3:11**, John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should **share** with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”



### B. To BE FAIR.

**Luke 3:12-13**, “Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” “**Don’t collect any more than you are required to**,” he told them.”



### C. To BE CONTENT.

**Luke 3:14**, “Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely

—be content with your pay.”

**Baptism liturgy:** “set him/her a good example...”

**Be Disciplined: Hebrews 12:11**, “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a **harvest of righteousness and peace** for those who have been trained by it.”



### **III.DO BE EXPECTANT.**

#### **A. Of Christ's return.**

**Luke 3:15**, “The people were **waiting expectantly** and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

#### **B. Of the Holy Spirit's work.**

**Luke 3:16**, “John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. **But one who is more powerful than I will come**, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**”

**John 3:30**, “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

We tend to rise to the level of what others expect from us.



**CONCLUSION:** Frank Sinatra, “You do something to me, something that simply mystifies me; Tell me, why should it be You have the power to hypnotize me? Let me live 'neath your spell 'Cause you do something to me That nobody else can do That no one else in the world can do.”

May we be able to say the same to Father-God and Do-Be-Do-Be-Do.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

- Pastor Aldi ☺