

Luke 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

Analysis

The multitudes' question 'What shall we do then?' demonstrates that genuine conviction produces desire for practical obedience. Their question follows John's warning of judgment and call to repentance, showing the appropriate response to conviction is seeking how to change. The plural 'we' indicates corporate responsibility and community reformation. This question models the proper sequence: hearing truth, conviction of sin, desire for transformation, seeking practical application. John's answer (v11) will emphasize social justice and compassion, showing that repentance produces visible fruit in relationships and behavior. True conversion always asks 'What must I do?' (Acts 2:37; 16:30).

Historical Context

John's preaching produced such conviction that crowds sought specific application. Their question demonstrates that effective preaching doesn't merely inform but moves hearers to action. The variety of questioners (multitudes, tax collectors, soldiers) shows truth's application varies by circumstance while principle remains constant.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does genuine conviction of sin produce desire for practical change?
2. Why is seeking specific application ('What shall we do?') important after hearing truth?
3. What does the multitudes' question teach about the relationship between belief and behavior?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ ἐπηρώτων αὐτὸν οἱ ὄχλοι λέγοντες Τί οὖν
And **asked** **him** G2532 G1905 G846 G3588 **the people** **saying** **What** **then**
G3793 G3004 G5101 G3767
ποιήσομεν
shall we do
G4160

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:37 (Parallel theme): Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Luke 3:14 (Parallel theme): And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

Acts 16:30 (Parallel theme): And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

Luke 3:8 (Parallel theme): Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.