

# Luke 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

## Analysis

---

John's answer—"He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise"—defines repentance in terms of generosity and compassion. The principle addresses excess meeting need: those with abundance sharing with those in want. This isn't socialism or forced redistribution but voluntary compassion flowing from transformed hearts. The specific mention of 'coats' (clothing) and 'meat' (food) addresses basic human necessities, not luxuries. John's requirement challenges materialism and selfishness, showing that genuine repentance produces tangible fruit in how we treat others. This anticipates Jesus's teaching about wealth, poverty, and generosity (Luke 6:20-26; 12:33; 18:22).

## Historical Context

---

In an economy where many lacked basic necessities while others hoarded resources, John's call to share challenged both Jewish and Roman social structures. His emphasis on practical compassion over ritual observance anticipated Jesus's ministry to the poor and marginalized.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

---

1. How does genuine repentance express itself in generosity toward those in need?
2. What is the difference between voluntary charity and forced redistribution?
3. Why does John emphasize social justice rather than ritual observance as evidence of repentance?

## Interlinear Text

---

ἀποκριθεὶς	δὲ	λέγει	αὐτοῖς	Ὁ	ἔχων	δύο	χιτῶνας
He answereth	and	saith	unto them	G3588	He that hath	two	coats
G611	G1161	G3004	G846		G2192	G1417	G5509
μεταδότη	τῷ	μὴ	ἔχων	καὶ	ὁ	ἔχων	βρώματα
let him impart	G3588	none	He that hath	and	G3588	He that hath	meat
G3330		G3361	G2192	G2532		G2192	G1033
ὁμοίως	ποιεῖτω						
likewise	let him do						
G3668	G4160						

## Additional Cross-References

---

**1 John 3:17** (Parallel theme): But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

**1 Timothy 6:18** (Parallel theme): That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

**Luke 18:22** (Parallel theme): Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

**1 John 4:20** (Parallel theme): If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

**Matthew 25:40** (Parallel theme): And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

**Luke 11:41** (Parallel theme): But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.

**James 1:27** (Parallel theme): Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

**Daniel 4:27** (Parallel theme): Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.