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Why do we need to "break" these things?
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LUKE



Luke 2:10-11 (to the shepherds)

...the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news of great joy** that will be for all the people.

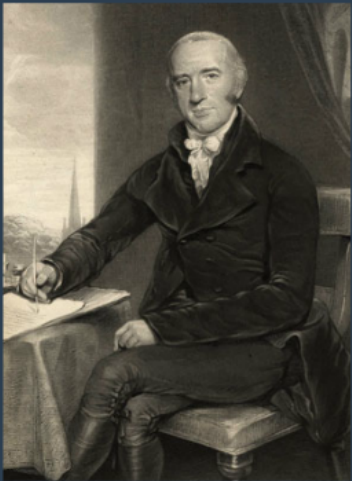
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:17-20

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But **Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen

Why do we need to “ponder” these things?

Because some good news will make you terrified and furious.



Charles Simeon:

because of our *proud conceit*, habitual lusts, and the tendency to despair.



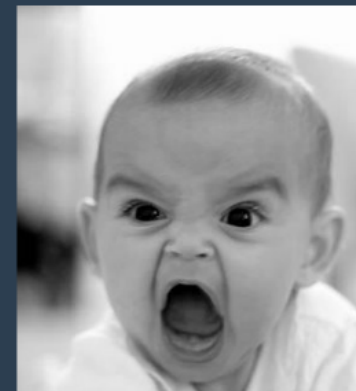
Example:
"I'm gonna
be your
dad."



The gospel is good news
that will make you angry.

Jesus' way is the way of repentance into forgiveness

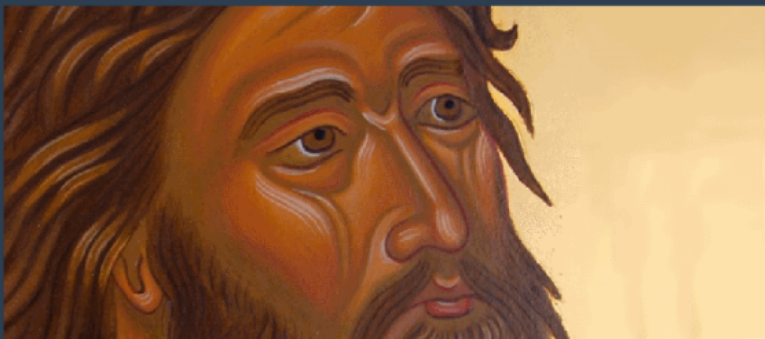
It's the good news that makes
you admit you're wrong.



1. The “way of God” is repentance into forgiveness

Luke 3:3-4

He went...preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"



(from Isaiah 40:3-5, 700ish BC)

2. Repentance requires a deep, fertile integrity

4 checks on the integrity of repentance:

1. Believe you're a viper
2. Bears "worthy" fruit
3. Do not presume on God
4. Don't dawdle



3. Worthy fruit grows from fertile repentance

Examples:

1. The generous use of your goods



2. The noble execution of your responsibilities



4. The Christ is more mighty, worthy, thorough and unquenchable than you can imagine.

Luke 3:15-17

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you in water. But one **more powerful** than I will come, the thongs of whose **sandals I am not worthy to untie**. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. **His winnowing fork is in his hand** to [completely] clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with **unquenchable** fire."

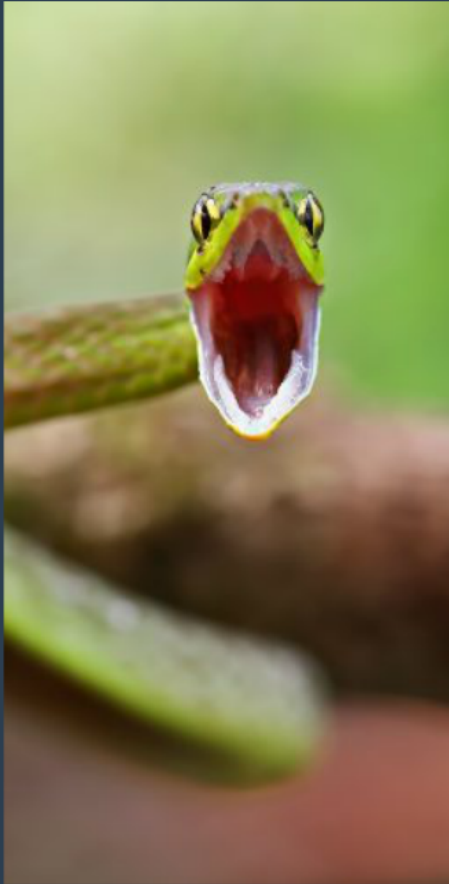
5. This is good news—of great joy.

Luke 3:18

And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

“...a baptism into repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” verse 3

“...and all flesh will see the salvation of God.” verse 6



2 responses:

a viper

and

a true man

anger and striking with venom



faith, and baptism in your place