



# III John

## Scripture Memory

**Luke 2:1**

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.”

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*Luke portrays Augustus as the unknowing agent of God, whose decree leads to the fulfillment of the promised rise of a special ruler from Bethlehem (Mic. 5:1-2). In the period of the emperor known for his reign of peace, God raises up the child of peace...The real emperor of peace is Jesus, not Octavian.*

Darrell L. Bock, *Luke 1:1-9:50* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994), p. 203

## Sunday School Lesson Notes

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### A Truth to Ponder from III John 11

“Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good.

He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.”

*The ultimate proof of the faith which we profess is the life which we live... We presently live in a day when many profess a saving knowledge of Christ but live a consistently sinful lifestyle... Such a person is not a Christian, for John declares that such a person “hath not seen God.”*

Gregory J. Mazak, “Following the Right Example,” in *Focus on I, II, III John*, vol.27 of *Biblical Viewpoint*, pp 74-75.

## Questions to Consider

*As you answer the questions and prepare for Sunday school, carefully read III John.*

For questions 1-3, identify the individuals John mentions in III John

1. He was known for his good testimony that was worthy to be imitated and his devotion to the truth.
2. John commended this individual because of his spiritual growth, consistent walk in the truth, godliness, hospitality and generosity.
3. John condemned him for his selfish pride that revealed itself through selfish deeds.
4. Identify John's reason or source for "greater joy" in III John 4.
5. III John 7 gives us the reason why John was so concerned about Gaius showing future hospitality to traveling brethren. Why were these brothers worthy to be ministered unto?
6. According to III John 9, why did Diotrephes refuse John's authority ("receiveth us not")?
7. Diotrephes' inner pride produced outward actions that were unbiblical and inconsistent with "walking in the light." According to III John 9-10, what were some of "his deeds"?
8. III John 11 contains the only command that John issues to Gaius (III John's recipient) in this letter (epistle). What is the command?

Explain how this command (Regarding "follow," the idea is "to imitate.") would be applied both in John's letter as well as in believers' lives today.

*Be an example of the believers in word and in conduct;*

*Be steadfast in love, in faith, in purity of life.*

*For those behind us, let us stand within the gap and make a difference in their lives;*

*Be an example to follow Christ.*

*Be an Example by Joe Zichterman*