

# John the Baptist: the Voice of One to Hear!

Luke 1:5-25 Tells the account of John's unlikely conception to Zechariah & Elizabeth

Luke 1:40-45 Tells of the Visitation with John leaping in recognition of Jesus, Elizabeth senses Mary as, 'Blessed Mother of my Lord', and blessed for acting/believing what was spoken to her.

Luke 1:57-64 Miraculous naming of John at his Circumcision to usher in New Generation Priestly Service  
Zechariah's canticle decrees John as a '**Horn** of salvation' in Luke 1:69, and the '**mouth** of holy prophets' in Luke 1:70 and that "And you, **child, will be called prophet** of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways," in Luke 1:76.

Angelic Prophecy from the Luke 1:17 at Annunciation Scene: "He will go before him **in the spirit and power of Elijah** to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord."

*Remember that in **Elijah** is taken away to heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:11). So, Elijah is ready in the chute of heaven to return and continue work of God on earth!*

*Also, Malachi 3:23 (or Mal 4:5-6) "Now I am sending to you Elijah the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day;"*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B Mark 1:1-8

### John's Message

Mark 1:4 "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins"

### John's Authority

Mark 1:2-3 "As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. (Malachi 3:1) A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" (Isaiah 40:3)

### His Location

Mark 1:4 "John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

### His Appearance: Clothes and Diet

Mark 1:6 "John was clothed in **camel's hair**, with a **leather belt** around his waist. He fed on **locusts** and **wild honey**."

*John the Baptist is a **New Kind of Priest: not clothed like the others (Zechariah even, et al)***

Matthew 11:8 "Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces." Matthew 23:5 "(Scribes & Pharisees) they widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels."

### ***Desert Clothes invoked the Trademark Uniform of Elijah***

2 Kings 1:8 King Ahaziah recognizes the identity of Elijah by just the physical description of a rumored wonderworker. Messengers told the king the met a wild man that 'wore a hairy garment with a leather belt around his waist.' The King exclaimed immediately, "It is Elijah the Tishbite!"

### ***To live in the desert means you survive on what God provides: as simple as that!***

Matthew 10:10 "take no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick"

Luke 10:7 "eat and drink what is offered to you"

Matthew 6:25 "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

Remember the Desert, Israelites: God provides Bread, Meat and Water

Psalm 78:19-20 "Can God spread a table in the wilderness? True, when he struck the rock, water gushed forth, the wadies flooded. But can he also give bread, or provide meat to his people?"  
Exodus 16:11 "Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread.'"

Exodus 17:6 "Strike the **rock, and the water** will flow from it for the people to drink. Moses did this, in the sight of the elders of Israel."

But about John the Baptist: Is he Elijah or not? John had quoted Malachi!

According to Malachi 3:23 (*or Mal 4:5-6*) "Now I am sending to you Elijah the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day;"

John did begin his preaching as the prophet said, "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. (Malachi 3:1)"

Matthew 17:10-13 "The disciples asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

He said in reply, "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

*Though Jesus had already told them back in Matthew 11:13-15 "All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear."*

Mark 6:14-15 "King Herod heard about it, for Jesus' fame had become widespread, and people were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him." Others were saying, "He is **Elijah**"; still others, "He is a prophet like any of the prophets."

His Testimony about himself: Nothing here

Mark 1:7-8 "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit."

John is mere water; a humble vapor or mist that quickly will pass; BUT, Jesus is Life-Giving Fire

Psalm 39:6 "Every man is but a breath" Breath, warm but only a collection of vapors-quick to dissipate

Psalm 144:4 "Man is but a breath, his days are like a passing shadow."

Psalm 62:10 "Mortals are a mere breath, the sons of man but an illusion.."

John 2:7 "fill jars with water" & John 2:9 "headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine."

Matthew 3:14 "John tried to prevent him (Jesus presented himself for John's baptism), saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?"

John 3:30 "He must increase, I must decrease."

His Death: Not a surprise, and opens the stage fully to Jesus' Advent

What happens? John, as good prophet, calls out King Herod for marrying his brother Philip's wife Herodias (maybe dispatching Philip?). Herod detains John in jail, until tragedy of dinner and boast leading to John's death. Whole Story found in Mark 6: 14 – 29 and Matthew 14: 1 – 12.

Mark 1:14-15 "After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Some of the content of John Baptist's Moral Teaching from Luke 3:10-14 "And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."