

John the Baptist – Fore-runner of Christ

Matthew 3:1-12; 14:4-12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-20; John 1:19-28

Jesus heralded John the Baptist as the _____ man ever born when He said, “Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist.” (Matthew 11:11) Let’s take overview this man and learn what caused Jesus to say this of him.

I. John the Baptist’s Character

- A. _____ to his calling –

- B. _____ no partiality –

- C. _____ to preach a hard message to a tough _____ -

II. John the Baptist’s Background:

- A. Born after a series of _____ -

- B. Fulfilled Prophecy – Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6 –

- C. Always named _____ -

- D. Born a _____ -

- E. Called of God to be a _____ - Matt 11:7-10; Luke 1:76; 3:2; John 1:6 –

- F. Preached outside normal _____ circles –
 - 1. Location –

 - 2. Dress –

 - 3. Diet –

III. John the Baptist’s Audience:

- A. John’s audience came from all over _____ . Matthew 3:5; Mark 1:5

B. Multitudes came to hear him!

1. _____ leaders – saw themselves as _____ Matthew 3:7; John 1:19
2. _____ outcasts – saw their _____ Luke 3:10-15

IV. John the Baptist’s Message:

_____ to the religious thought of the contemporary Jews - Matthew 3:9

1. Spoke of _____ - Urgency Matthew 3:2, 7-8
2. “Repentance for the _____ of sins” Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3
3. Show _____ of _____. Matthew 3:8; Luke 3:8
4. Declared the coming _____ of the Holy Spirit - Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8
5. “bear witness of the _____” John 1:7-9
6. Prepare for the _____ _____ _____ Matthew 3:2

V. John the Baptist’s Baptism:

A. Old Testament Baptism –

B. John’s Baptism – “immersion”-

1. Took place over a long period of _____ Mark 1:5
2. It was a sign of true _____ of sin. Matthew 3:6; Mark 1:4

3. It was a picture of a greater _____ coming. Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16

4. It was NOT an action that gave _____; it showed _____.

VI. John the Baptist's Attitude toward Christ:

A. Not worthy to be Christ's _____ Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7; Luke 3:16

B. John's job was to prepare and declare the _____. John 1:6-9, 15; 3:23-30

1. Realized Christ was _____. John 1:15

2. Realized Christ would give _____ John 1:7-9

3. Realized Christ was worthy to be _____ John 1:35-40

VII. Christ's Attitude toward John the Baptist: Matthew 11

1. (vs. 9) "yea, I say unto you, and _____ than a prophet."

2. (vs. 11) "Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a _____ than John the Baptist:"

VIII. John the Baptist's Martyrdom:

John was killed for preaching against the _____ of the king. Matt. 14:4-12

Believer's Application: