

December 23, 2023

## **John the Baptist**

[John 1: 19-28](#)

*Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"*

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. (John 1:19-28)

John was the voice of one crying in the wilderness. How he must have longed for the coming Messiah. Living such a dedicated life as to be mistaken for the Messiah or the prophet Elija, that even the Jews questioned his identity. What a peculiar man, dressed very poorly, eating wild honey, offering hope to people as we should do.

We should live a life so that we stand out from the world as John did. When we are seen in our daily lives, we should have a true spirit of concern for our fellow man, proclaiming with joy the love of Christ.

How great John's message was to be for us all. Repent. Confess. Be baptized. The Good News then and still today! John's message for me is this: I am not the Christ, but let me tell you how to find him. He is here! REJOICE, PROCLAIM, The King Has Come.

John had a burning to shout to all that would listen. I am not Christ. But he is among you; make straight the way of the Lord. Even the Pharisees were astounded with John.

*Prayer: Now as we celebrate this happy time within the Church, let us pray that we all may be known in our faith shouting, praising and exhorting Christ daily as we should. Amen.*

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