

## **To a People Living on the Edge of Glory** ***Lessons from the Life of John the Baptist***

Luke 1:11-17

<sup>11</sup>Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. <sup>14</sup>He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. <sup>16</sup>He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

### **1. A Different S \_\_\_\_\_**

Numbers 14:21-24

<sup>21</sup>Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, <sup>22</sup>not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— <sup>23</sup>not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. <sup>24</sup>But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

Malachi 3:16-18

<sup>16</sup>Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. <sup>17</sup>"On the day when I act," says the Lord Almighty, "they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. <sup>18</sup>And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

Matthew 11:16-19

<sup>16</sup>"To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: <sup>17</sup>"'We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' <sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' <sup>19</sup>The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

### **2. H \_\_\_\_\_**

#### **a. no competitiveness**

John 1:6-8

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Romans 12:3-6

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

<sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

- b. understands authority**
- c. willingness to go even lower as needed**
- d. not concerned with social status, and if it has it, it never presumes upon its position**

Philippians 2

John 3:26-30

<sup>26</sup> They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." <sup>27</sup> To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' <sup>29</sup> The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. <sup>30</sup> He must become greater; I must become less."

1 Kings 21:25-29

<sup>25</sup> (There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife. <sup>26</sup> He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the Lord drove out before Israel.) <sup>27</sup> When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly. <sup>28</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: <sup>29</sup> "Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son."

### 3. Stewards of M \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 3:10-14

<sup>10</sup> "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup> John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. <sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

Luke 16:11

...if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches

Matthew 25:21

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

#### 4. Lovers of F \_\_\_\_\_

Malachi 4:5-6

<sup>5</sup>“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. <sup>6</sup>He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

#### 5. Open to W \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 7:18-35

<sup>18</sup>John’s disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, <sup>19</sup>he sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” <sup>20</sup>When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’” <sup>21</sup>At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup>So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>23</sup>Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.” <sup>24</sup>After John’s messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>25</sup>If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. <sup>26</sup>But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is the one about whom it is written: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” <sup>29</sup>(All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus’ words, acknowledged that God’s way was right, because they had been baptized by John. <sup>30</sup>But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God’s purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.) <sup>31</sup>Jesus went on to say, “To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? <sup>32</sup>They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: “‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.’ <sup>33</sup>For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ <sup>34</sup>The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ <sup>35</sup>But wisdom is proved right by all her children.”

Isaiah 43:16-19

<sup>16</sup>This is what the Lord says—he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup>who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: <sup>18</sup>“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. <sup>19</sup>See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 40:3-5

<sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”