

Acts 2:23 “This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing Him to the cross. ^[24] But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him.”

Acts 8:4 “Those who had been scattered preached the Word wherever they went.”

Acts 8:35 “Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.”

Romans 10:17 “Consequently, faith comes by hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.”

C. God wants us to magnify His name and shine for His glory.

****Mark 1:7** “And this was his message: “After me comes the One more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.”

John 3:30 “He must become greater; I must become less.”

John 1:29 “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward Him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ^[30] This is the One I meant when I said, “A Man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.”

John the Messenger Lesson #2 5-25-25

John 1:6 “There came a man who was sent from God; His name was John.”

John 1:8 “He himself was not the light; He came only as a witness to the light.”

I. The mission of John was predicted in advance.

****Mark 1:2** “It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—

Malachi 3:1 “See I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to His temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.”

****Mark 1:3** “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.’”

Isaiah 40:3 “A voice of one calling: “In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.”

II. The message of John’s birth was proclaimed ahead of time.

Luke 1:13 “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 give him the name John.”

Luke 1:14 “He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth.”

Luke 1:15 “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 from birth.”

Luke 1:24 “After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.”

Luke 1:57 “When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.”

III. The message of John had a major impact on the Jewish people.

****Mark 1:4** “And so John came baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

A. People should give their resources.

Luke 3:10 “What should we do then? The crowd asked. ^[11] John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.”

B. Tax collectors should avoid greed when collecting taxes.

Luke 3:12 “Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ^[13] Don’t collect any more than you are required to, he told them.”

C. Soldiers were to stop gaining resources through force.

Luke 3:14a “Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money”

D. Soldiers were to speak good and honest words about others.

Luke 3:14b “... and don’t accuse people falsely”

E. Soldiers were to be grateful for what they have.

Luke 3:14c “... be content with your pay.”

****Mark 1:4b** “... for the forgiveness of sins.”

****Mark 1:5** “The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.”

Luke 1:16 “Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.”

Luke 1:17 “And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

IV. The main focus of John was on Jesus Christ.

A. He appeared in humble clothing.

****Mark 1:6a** “John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.”

2 Kings 1:8 “They replied, “He was a man with a garment of hair and with a leather belt around his waist.”

B. He articulated humble words.

Luke 1:15a “For He will be great in the sight of the Lord.”

Matthew 11:11b “... among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than me.”

****Mark 1:7** “And this was his message: “After me comes the One more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.”

C. He announced the future work of Jesus.

****Mark 1:8** “I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

How can we apply this lesson to our life?

A. God has given us a ministry so we can serve.

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

B. God has given us a message to share.

John 1:7 “He came as a witness to testify concerning that light so that through him all men might believe.”