



Friends of Jesus and Mary

III Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019

Isaiah 35, 1-6^a. 10; Psalm 145; James 5, 7-10; Mathew 11, 2-11

My messenger... will prepare your way.

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Reflection

What is a prophet? (God's messenger) **Jesus says that John the Baptist was God's messenger. What was John the Baptist's message?** (Stop sinning; love God and your neighbor, change your life.) **Why does he ask this?** (He wants them to prepare their hearts to receive Jesus, the Messiah, God made man. A sinful heart cannot see God.) **The emperor Herod jailed him because his wife did not like how John the Baptist insisted Herod had to change his life and stop sinning. St. John the Baptist sent Jesus a message, asking Jesus if He was the promised Savior. How did He answer?** (He sends them to describe all the miracles and good things He was doing.) **What miracles did Jesus do?** (The blind see...The prophet, Isaiah, who had lived many years before had said about the Savior, " *Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy...*" (Isaiah, 35, 5-6) St. John the Baptist would have understood this response.) **Jesus also told his apostles that the poor have the Good News proclaimed to them. Does this mean that the message is not for the rich?** (No, Jesus is talking about a poor heart; a humble heart listens to the Gospel because it knows it needs God's mercy and love.) Jesus says John is more than a prophet because, "This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.*" (Malachi 3:1) St. John the Baptist prepared the way for the coming of Jesus, the Savior of the world. **How can we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus this Christmas?** (Sharing, helping, forgiving, sacrificing...)



Activity

On the following page, color and write the messages of St. John the Baptist. On the last page, match the miracle with the picture by writing the corresponding number in the circle.

Prayer

Lord, give me a humble heart so I may always seek you, always love you, always seek your forgiveness. Thank you, for becoming small so we may better understand the great Love God has for us. Amen

Song: Joy to the World, Lifetree Kids, <https://youtu.be/bQ8gEOL1524>

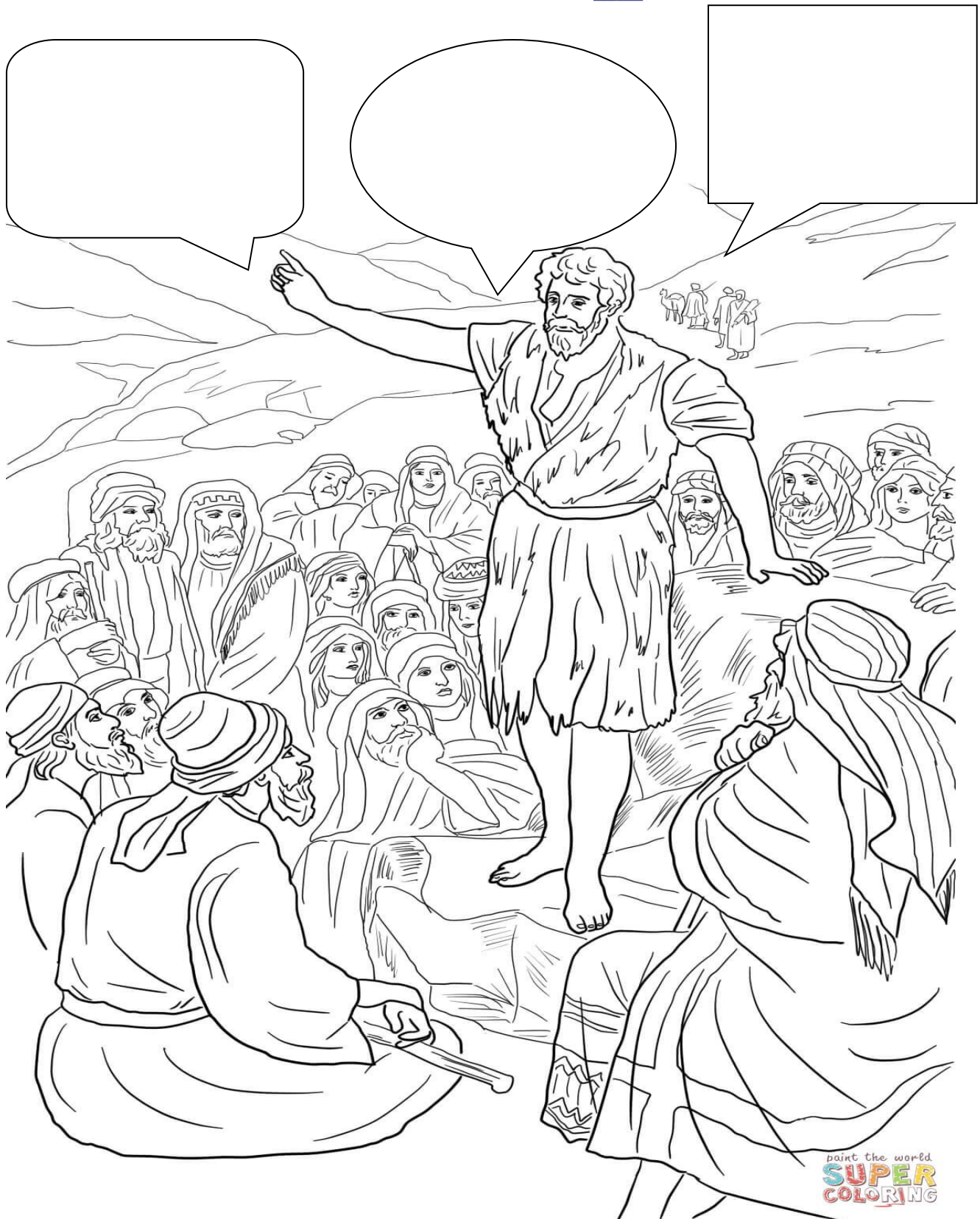
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Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



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Jesus' Miracles

Match the miracle with the picture by writing the corresponding number in the circle.

1. The blind see,
2. The lame walk,
3. The lepers are healed of leprosy,

4. The deaf hear.
5. The dead resurrect,
6. The multiplication of the bread and fish.

