

John the Baptist

"The Humble yet Courageous Prophet of Messiah"

I. John had reasons to be a proudful man!!

1. Family Background and His special calling! (Luke 1:5-25)

Father Zacharias: a highly respected priest

Mother Elizabeth: relative of Mary; descendant of Aaron (priestly blood line)

John: cousin of Jesus; his birth foretold to his parents by the angel Gabriel; John was the great, anointed prophet of Messiah predicted by Isaiah (40:3-5) and Malachi (3:1, 4;5).

2. Very successful ministry!

a) Great crowds flocked to hear him! (Mt 3:5, Mk 1:5, Jn 3:23)

b) Had many converts whom he baptized! (Mt 3:6, Mk 1:5, Jn 3:23)

c) Had the great honor of baptizing Jesus! And he saw the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descend on Jesus and heard God the Father speaking from Heaven! (Mt 3:13-17; Mk 1:9-11).

II. But John was very humble and pointed people away from himself and towards Jesus!

1. His perspective: "I am not worthy to tie his shoes" (Mt 3:11, Mk 1:7, Lk 3:16; Jn 1:27)

2. His goal: Point people to Jesus! (John 1:15, 29-30, 36).

3. His attitude: "He must increase, I must decrease!" (John 3:22-30)

III. John was also very courageous!

John told it like it was to the religious hypocrites; he also told King Herod that it was wrong for him to divorce his wife and marry his brother's wife (who was also Herod's niece). The end result of John's outspokenness? Imprisonment and having his head chopped off! (Mt 3:7-10, 4:2, 14:1-11; Mk 1:14, 6:14-28; Lk 3:7-9, 19-20).

IV. John's humility and courage was recognized and rewarded by Jesus!

Jesus said John was the greatest man ever born! (Mt 11:11; Lk 7:28)