

**The Plain Message of John the Baptist:  
A Message for All Ages  
Luke 03:07–20**

*(Mt. 3:7-12; Mk. 1:7-8)*

**1 *He preached condemnation***

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”

**2 *He preached repentance***

8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

**3 *He preached against pride***

**4 *He preached judgment***

9 The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

**5 *He preached social justice***

10 “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

a. The people:  
Were to love and care enough to share their material possessions

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. The tax collectors:  
Were to love and care enough to stop exerting their authority and cheating people

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. The soldiers:  
Were to love and care enough to provide security and service to the nation

14 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.”

**6 *He preached the Messiah’s coming***

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ.

<p>a. The Messiah's person</p> <p>b. The Messiah's baptism</p> <p>c. The Messiah's judgment</p> <p><b>7 <i>He preached many other things</i></b></p> <p><b>8 <i>He preached against sin in high places</i></b></p> <p>a. He preached against the governor's sin</p> <p>b. The result: He was arrested</p>	<p>16 John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.</p> <p>17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire"</p> <p>18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.</p> <p>19 When John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done,</p> <p>20 Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.</p>
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