

Woodland Baptist Church
Morning Worship - February 24, 2013
John 1:6-8, The Witness to the Light

1. **Vs. 6** John the _____ was sent into the world from _____
 - a. **6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John.**
 - b. John was a man born by supernatural intervention.
 - c. **Read Luke 1:5-23**
 - i. Each were of priestly descent - Zechariah (Abijah) and Elizabeth (Aaron); Zechariah and Elizabeth were childless and old; Zechariah was a Priest drawn by lot to offer burning incense in the holy of holies on the altar of incense - a huge honor; As Zechariah was offering the incense, an angel appeared to him and said: Zechariah's prayer had been heard...He will have a son named John and he will be great in the sight of the Lord...He will never drink wine or fermented drink [**Nazarite Vow - Numbers 6 - abstinence from drinking, cutting hair and dead bodies**]...He will be filled with the Holy Spirit **before he is born**...He will preach in the spirit of Elijah and **turn the hearts of parents to children** and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous...All of this to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord.
 - ii. Zechariah _____ God's words through the angel...The angel identifies himself as Gabriel *who stands in the presence of God*; Zechariah's doubt is disciplined by his ability to speak being taken from him; Elizabeth becomes pregnant and rejoices - "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."
2. **Vs. 7** His _____ was to announce _____ coming
 - a. **He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.**
 - b. Read Luke 3:1-14 and expound
 - i. OT citation in verse 4 from **Isaiah 40:3-5** - the "voice of one crying in the wilderness"
 - ii. Why does the Baptist quote this passage from Isaiah? Isaiah was a major prophet during 740-700 BC, during the decline of the northern kingdom of Israel. The Assyrian King, Shalmaneser V, would besiege and destroy the capital of Israel, Samaria, in 722 BC (2 Kings 17). Isaiah was sent by God to Israel *before the*

- country was destroyed*, to call them to repentance and back to covenant in order to avoid being destroyed by Assyria.
- iii. Chapters 1-39 of the book are primarily about the judgement and destruction of Israel...but beginning in chapter 40, Isaiah completely changes tone and preaches about the hope, restoration and comfort through the coming of the Lord's salvation.
 - iv. John the Baptist uses the "witness" of this passage as a "light" and to tries to awaken the Jewish people to the realization that the promised One of God is coming and that there was no stopping Him...get prepared for his coming...prepare your hearts, turn from sin, repent and be baptized as Christ will make everything new and complete!
 - c. He came to witness so that "all might believe"
 - i. Jesus did it _____...believing _____ it all... Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent" - **John 6:28-29**
3. **Vs. 8** John was not the _____ only the _____ of the Savior
 - a. **8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.**
 - b. John Chrysostom - "The excellence of a messenger consists in saying nothing of his own."
 - c. Martin Luther - "Pious, Christian teachers direct the people away from themselves to Christ, as St. John does here with his testimony...For all our sermons tend toward this goal, that you and we know and believe that Christ is the only Savior and Consolation of the world."
 - d. Matthew Henry - "John the Baptist was a _____, like that which guided the wise men to Christ, a morning star; but he was not the Sun; not the Bridgroom, but a friend of the Bridegroom; not the Prince, but his harbinger. Note, we must take heed of over-valuing ministers, as well as of under-valuing them."
 - e. **Read Luke 3:15-17; Matthew 5:14-16; John 5:33-35**
- d. **CLOSE**
 - a. Matthew 14:1-12 - John the Baptist's Death
 - b. Ultimately John's commitment to Christ and the Kingdom of God cost him imprisonment and death. As John was the herald of Christ in time...John would now be his herald in eternity.

