

# The Passing of the Baton

Luke 3:15-20

(series #14)

**Intro:** the difficulty of playing “second fiddle”

## I. The Confusion About John’s Identity vv. 15-17

A. There was an atmosphere of expectation

B. Some wondered if John was the Christ  
- John 1:19-23

C. John gladly stated his inferiority

D. The two responses to the Messiah  
1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 12:13

2. The baptism of fire = judgment v. 17

## II. The Focus of John’s Ministry v. 18

- repentance to prepare to embrace the Messiah

## III. The Conclusion of John’s Life vv. 19-20

A. The concern of Herod Antipas - Matt. 14:1-2

B. The reason for John’s arrest - Matt. 14:3-5

C. The scheme of Herodias - Matthew 14:6-8

D. The death of God’s servant - Matt. 14:9-12

**Conclusion:** the awfulness of dying unprepared