

The King's Forerunner

Matthew 3:1-6

(series #6)

Intro: the divine sanction on John's baptizing - Luke 7:24-30

I. The Message of John the Baptist vv. 1-2

- A. He was preaching in the wilderness v. 1
- B. He was preaching repentance v. 2
 - 1. A change of mind, heart, and life
 - 2. "The kingdom of heaven is at hand"
 - a. The King was near
 - b. It was also an offer of the kingdom
 - c. John's later confusion - Matt. 11:2-5

II. The Ministry of John the Baptist vv. 3-4

- A. He was "the voice" preparing the way v. 3
- B. He was like the prophet Elijah v. 4
 - 1. His dress - 2nd Kings 1:8, Zech. 13:4
 - 2. His role
 - a. Malachi 4:5 - the prophecy
 - b. Lk 1:17 - the spirit/power of Elijah
 - c. Matthew 11:7-14
 - d. John 1:21 - the denial to be Elijah
- C. He baptized the repentant vv. 5-6

Concluding applications: What made John so great?

- 1) He was uncompromising
- 2) He was faithful
- 3) He was humble - John 1:27, 3:30