

Part Two

Lesson 2

“The Ministry of John the Baptist“

Scriptures to Study: Matthew 3:1-8; 14:1-13

Introduction

As foretold in prophecy, John the Baptist was the one to prepare the way for the Messiah. While the gospels do not primarily concern themselves with everything he taught and all that he did to accomplish that, we are given some brief glimpses and insights into his ministry. Building upon what we learned in the last lesson, John’s mission in preparing the way was to bring those folks back to the Old Testament Law so that they would recognize the Messiah and have the integrity and desire to accept the One who would make that claim. (By the way, John largely failed. This was not due to the intensity or content of his message, but due to the hardness of that generation’s heart.)

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. What message did John preach?
2. Who had previously mentioned the one who would do this?
3. Why do you think that Matthew takes time to mention the clothing style and diet of John the Baptist?
4. Who went out to hear John? What did some do in response to what they heard?
5. Why would John have that response to the elite of Israel?
6. In Matthew 14, what report did Herod hear that haunted him about his memory of John the Baptist?
7. Why did Herod put John in prison?
8. What prompted Herodias to get angry with John?
9. How did the general populace regard John?
10. How did John end up without his head?
11. How did Jesus find out about this incident?
12. What did Jesus attempt to do when he heard about John?

THINK ON THESE THINGS:

What Old Testament law did Herod and Herodias violate?