

## St. John the Baptist

**Matthew 3:1-2- In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** (KJV)

St. John is known for preaching repentance and the Kingdom of Heaven at hand. Consciousness about active repentance has a central place in the lives of believers. Believers daily thoughts and actions are to be directed toward God's Kingdom. Repentance and a life pleasing to God are necessary for seekers of the Kingdom. Learning from St. John the Baptist and his example enriches believers' lives. St. John is a worthy intercessor before the Lord God in behalf of believers.

**Matthew 11:11-Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.** (KJV)

Great benefit is derived from considering the singular place in history of St. John. Jesus put St. John in perspective regarding his place among all who were born. Investing in learning about St. John the Baptist leads to benefits to the human soul. The relationship between St. John the Baptist and Jesus merits careful thought. Believers will always find something new to learn about Jesus Christ and St. John. Jesus Christ and St. John provide nourishment for the hunger of the believer's soul.

**Matthew 11:12-And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.** (KJV)

Considered effort and not complacency is necessary to drive the Christian life. Believers have a responsibility to forcefully seek the Kingdom of Heaven. Being responsible as Christians comes with uniting with Jesus Christ at Baptism. The world changed with Jesus Christ's baptism in the Jordan River by John. Christian believers' lives and identities change forever with their baptism. Holy Baptism is a measuring and reference point for the remaining time of life.

**Luke 7:20-When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?** (KJV)

During his life St. John the Baptist directed attention to the Lord Jesus Christ. St. John assumed a position of humility in his relationship with Jesus Christ. We learn from the actions of those sent to Jesus Christ by St. John the Baptist. John the Baptist's actions are associated with revealing truths about Christ. We learn from Jesus' words and actions in relation to St. John the Baptist. Being attentive to the relationship of Jesus and John improves believers lives.

---

Synaxis of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist John. January 7/20, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic