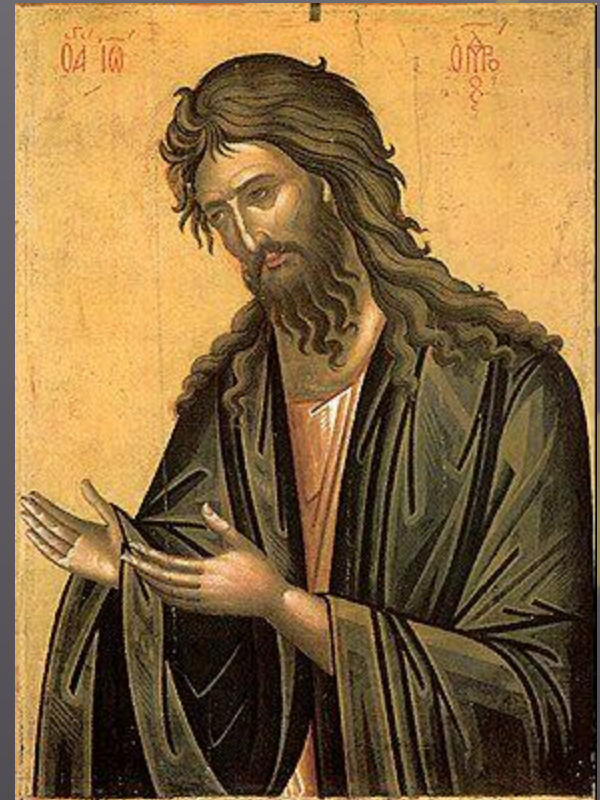


**“...among those
born of women
there is not a
greater prophet
than John the
Baptist”**

Luke 7:28



Lessons on GREATNESS

By:

St. John The
Baptist



Highlights

1. What greatness is not about
2. St. John and making a change
3. St. John and Herod
4. Why did the people follow him?

I. What greatness is not about ⁽¹⁾

- In how you are dressed:

“Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist”

Matthew 3:4

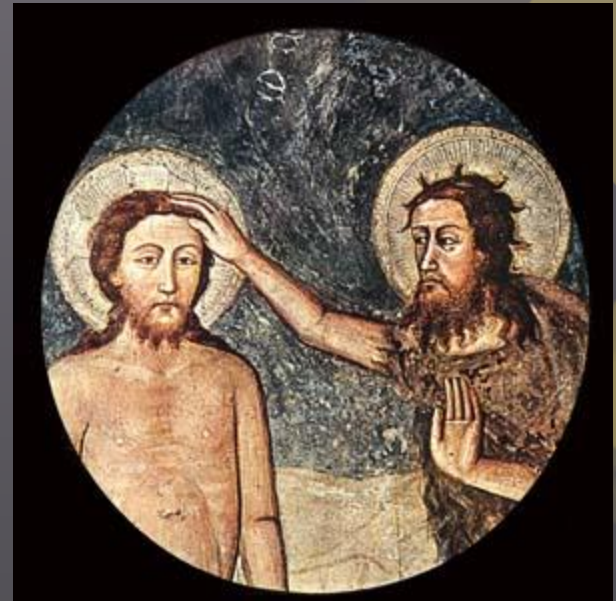
- In holding a title or a rank



I. What greatness is not about ⁽²⁾

- In making friends with the elite
- In performing signs and wonders: "John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true."

John 10:41



II. St. John and making a change ⁽¹⁾

1. He was different in his ascetic life style
2. He knew how to identify himself:
 - A voice crying in the wilderness
 - A messenger before Him
 - A friend of the bridegroom



II. St. John and making a change ⁽²⁾

3. His focus was on the real matter:
Repentance and its fruits
4. He had a strong sense of justice: “Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, ‘Teacher, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Collect no more than what is appointed for you.’ Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, ‘And what shall we do?’ So he said to them, ‘Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.’” **Luke 3:12-14**



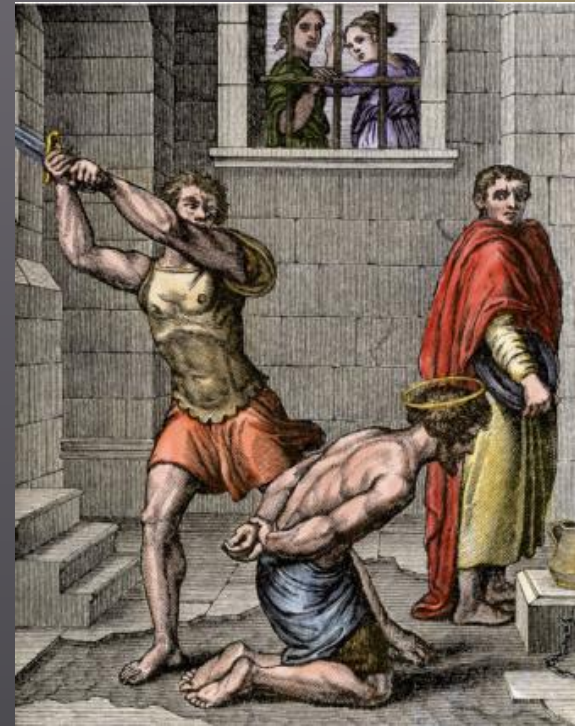
III. St. John and Herod ⁽¹⁾

- “for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly” **Mark 6:20**
- “Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them”
Ezekiel 33:23



III. St. John and Herod (2)

- “Because John had said to Herod, ‘It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.’”
Mark 6:18
- “And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her” **Luke 6:26**



IV. Why did the people follow him? ⁽¹⁾

1. His selflessness

He had no personal gain:
“He must increase, but
I must decrease” **John 3:30**

2. His nobility

He sowed and knew that he
would not reap the fruits
himself



IV. Why did the people follow him? ⁽¹⁾

3. **His Integrity**: He told them the truth and cared above all about their salvation.
4. **His care**: He taught them how to be cleansed through the baptism of repentance
5. **His style**: He served with passion and courage

