

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

Luke 7:28

John the Baptist: A model of diligence and seriousness

“The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man’s precious possession” (Prov.12:27)

1. Serious in the content of the message

“Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father’”

(Luke 3:7)

2. Serious in the way he conveyed the message

**“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His
paths straight’” (Mark 1:3)**

3. Serious in self-control

- “Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6)
- “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30)

4. Serious in carrying the message to everyone

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)

5. Serious in confronting those who needed the rebuke

**“Because John had said to Herod, ‘It is not
lawful for you to have your brother’s wife’”
(Mark 6:18)**

**6. Serious in bearing
the cross of the
mission**