Mark

The **Gospel** of the **Servant of God**

I. The ***Service*** of the **Servant** (1:1-10:52)

A. **His *Preparation*** for **Ministry** (1:1-20)
B. **His *Powerful*** **Ministry** (1:21-2:12)
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1. The ***Poor*** **Reception** in **Nazareth** (6:1-6a)
2. The ***Pairing*** and **Sending** of the **Twelve** (6:7-13)

3. The ***Plight*** of **John the Baptist** (6:14-29)

a. ***Herod's*** **Inquiry** regarding **Jesus** (6:14-16)
b. ***Herod's*** **Execution** of **John** (6:17-29)

14 And **King Herod** heard *of it*, for **His name (Jesus)** had become **well known**;
and *people* were saying, "**John the Baptist** has **risen** from the **dead**,
and that is ***why*** these **miraculous powers** are at work **in Him**."

15 But others were saying, "He is **Elijah**." And others were saying,
"*He is* a **prophet**, like one of the **prophets** *of old*."

16 But when **Herod** heard *of it*, he kept saying,
"**John,** whom **I beheaded**, has ***risen***!"

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17 For **Herod** himself had **sent** and had **John arrested**
and bound in **prison** on account of **Herodias**, the ***wife*** of his **brother Philip**,
because he had **married her**.

18 For **John** had been saying to **Herod**,
"It is **not lawful** for you to have **your brother's wife."**

19 **Herodias** had a **grudge** against **him** and wanted
to put him to **death** and could **not** *do so*;

20 for **Herod** was ***afraid*** of **John**, knowing that he was
a **righteous** and **holy man**, and he kept him **safe**.

And when he **heard** him, he was ***very perplexed***;
but he used to **enjoy** listening **to him**.

[21] A **strategic day** came when **Herod** on his birthday gave a **banquet**
for his **lords** and **military commanders** and the **leading men** of Galilee;

[22] and when the **daughter** of **Herodias** herself came in and ***danced***,
she **pleased Herod** and his dinner guests; and the **king** said to the **girl,**

"Ask me for whatever **you want** and I will **give it** to **you.**"

[23] And **he *swore*** to her, "**Whatever** you ask of me,
I will **give it** to you; up to **half** of **my kingdom**."

[24] And she went out and said to her **mother**, "***What*** shall **I ask for**?"
And she said, "The **head** of **John the Baptist**."

[25] **Immediately** she came in a **hurry** to the **king** and asked, saying,
"I want you to **give me** *at once* the **head** of **John the Baptist** on a platter."

[26] And although the **king** was ***very sorry,***
yet because of **his <u>oaths</u>** and because of his **dinner guests**,
he was **unwilling** to **refuse her**.

[27] **Immediately** the **king** sent an **executioner**
and **commanded** *him* to bring *back* his head.
And he went and had him **<u>beheaded</u>** in the **prison**,

[28] and brought **his head** on a platter, and **gave it** to the girl;
and the girl **gave it** to **her mother**.

[29] When his **disciples** heard *about this*,
they came and took away **his body** and laid it in a **tomb.**

John the Baptist—His **Life** and **Ministry**
A ***Biblical*** **Overview**

I. His ***Prophetic*** **<u>Calling</u>**

And **you, child,** will be called the **<u>prophet</u>** of the **Most High;**
for you will go on BEFORE **THE LORD** TO **<u>PREPARE</u> HIS WAYS**;
to give to **His people** the **knowledge of *salvation***
by the ***forgiveness*** of **their sins**,..(Luke 1:76-77)

This is the **testimony** of **<u>John</u>**, when the **Jews** sent to him **priests**
and **Levites** from Jerusalem to ask him, "**Who are you?...**"

He said, "I am **A <u>VOICE</u>** OF ONE **CRYING** IN THE **WILDERNESS,**
'**MAKE *STRAIGHT*** THE **WAY OF THE LORD**,' as **Isaiah** the **prophet** said." (John 1:19, 23)

II. His *Powerful* **Message - <u>Repentance</u>**

And **he (John)** came into all the district around **Jordan**,
preaching a baptism of <u>repentance</u> for the ***forgiveness* of sins**; (Luke 3:3)

A. *Preaching* <u>Repentance</u> to *all* levels of Society

1. The **general populace** (Matthew 3:1-2, 5-6)
2. The **religious leaders** (Matthew 3:7-9)
3. The **political leaders** (Matthew 14:3-5)

Now in those days **John the Baptist** came,
<u>preaching</u> in the wilderness of **Judea,** saying,
"**<u>Repent</u>**, for the **<u>kingdom of heaven</u>** is **at hand**." (Matthew 3:1-2)

B. *Pointing* to **Jesus** as **<u>Savior</u> and <u>Messiah</u>**

John answered **them** (the **people**) saying, "**I baptize** in **water**,
but among you stands **<u>One</u>** whom you do **not know**.
It is **<u>He</u>** who comes ***after me*,** the **thong** of whose **sandal**
I am **not worthy** to untie..."

The next day **he (John)** saw **Jesus** coming to **him** and said,
"Behold, the **<u>Lamb of God</u>** who **takes away the *sin*** of the **world!**
(John 1:26-27, 29)

III. His *Personal* <u>Credentials</u>

A. An *Impeccable* <u>Character</u>

But the **angel** said to him,
"Do not be afraid, **Zacharias**, for…your wife **Elizabeth**
will bear you **a son**,…and many will **rejoice** at his **birth**.

For **he** will be **<u>great</u>** in the sight of **the Lord**; and **he** will drink **<u>no wine</u>** or **<u>liquor,</u>**
and **he** will be ***filled*** with the **<u>Holy Spirit</u>** while yet in his **mothers womb.**

And he **will turn *many*** of the **sons of Israel <u>back</u>** to the **Lord their God**."
(Luke 1:13-15)

…for **Herod** was afraid of **John**,
knowing that **he** was a **<u>righteous</u>** and **<u>holy man</u>**,..
(Mark 6:20)

B. An *Influential* <u>Ministry</u>

Now in those days **John the Baptist** came,
preaching in the wilderness of **Judea,**
Saying, "**<u>Repent</u>**, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand."…

Then **Jerusalem** was **going out** to **him**, and **all Judea** and **all the district** around **Jordan**; and they were being **baptized** by **him** in the **Jordan river**, as they **confessed** their **sins**. (Matthew 3:1-2, 5-6)

C. An *Incomparable* Endorsement

When the **messengers** of **John** had left, **He (Jesus)** began to **speak** to the **crowds** about **John**,

"**What** did you go out into the **wilderness** to **see**?
A **reed *shaken*** in the **wind**? But what did you go out to **see**?
A **man** dressed in ***soft* clothing**? Those who are ***splendidly* clothed**
and live in **luxury** are *found* in **royal palaces**!

But **what** did **you** go out **to see**? **A prophet**?
Yes, **I say** to **you,** and **one** who is ***more* than a prophet**…"

"**I say** to you**,** among those **born** of **women**, there is **no one greater** than **John**;
yet **he** who is ***least*** in the **kingdom of God** is ***greater*** than **he**."
(Luke 7:24-26, 28)

IV. His *Pursuit* of Righteousness

A. *Preaching* Repentance back to God

And **he (John) will turn** many of the **sons of Israel back** to the **Lord their God**.

"It is **he** who will go as a **forerunner** before **Him** in the **spirit and power of Elijah**,
TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE **FATHERS BACK** TO THE **CHILDREN**,
and the **disobedient** to the attitude of the **righteous**,
so as to **make *ready* a people prepared** for **the Lord."** (Luke 1:16-17)

B. *Proclaiming* Righteousness to the Powerful

For when **Herod** had **John arrested**, he **bound** him
and put him in **prison** because of **Herodias,** the **wife** of his **brother Philip**.

For **John** had been saying to **him,**
"It is **not lawful** for you to **have her."** (Matthew 14:3-4)

But when **he (John)** saw many of the **Pharisees** and **Sadducees**
coming for **baptism**, **he** said to them, "You **brood of vipers**,
who **warned you** to **flee** from the **wrath to come**?

Therefore **bear fruit** in keeping with **repentance**;..(Matthew 3:7-8)

Closing Comments