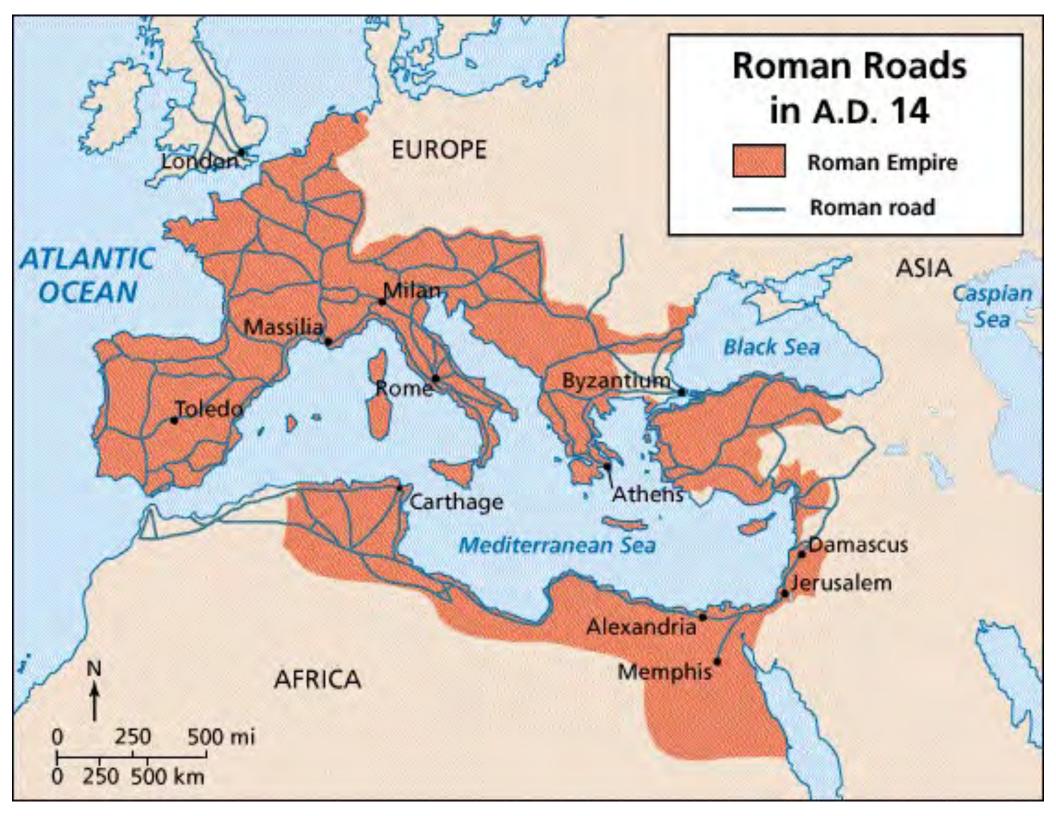
# John the Baptizer Tells the World About Jesus Matthew 3: 1-12

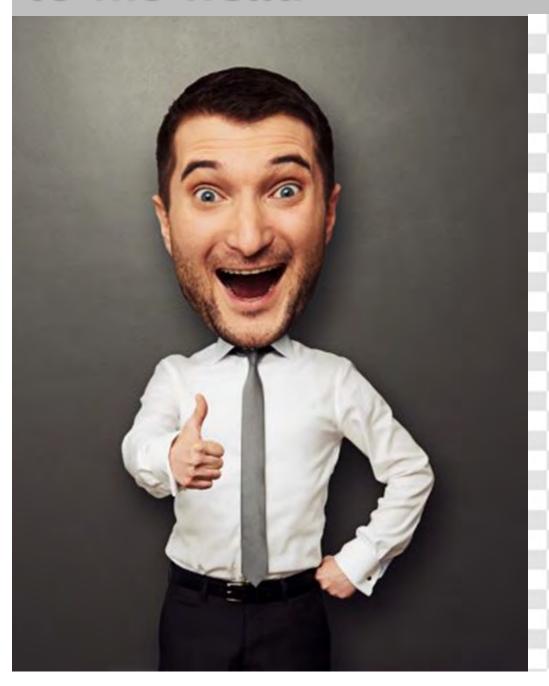






# Verse 1 - 2 John's message – REPENT!

## John did not allow his popularity to go to his head





John knew his place – a *"witness"* John 1: 7

What Jesus thought of John: Matthew 11:11

"... among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist"

# What did John do? He told the people about Jesus!

- 1) It was not about his looks (wild-eyed)
- 2) It was not about being politically correct
- 3) John used his words and so must we

### "Preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary, use words." (Francis of Assisi)

People are not saved by looking at your life

They are saved by *believing the Gospel* that has been shared with them

### What was John's message?

REPENT!

Repent = "metanoeo" = a change of heart toward God; a change of mind

**SOS** America and all humanity:

REPENT!!

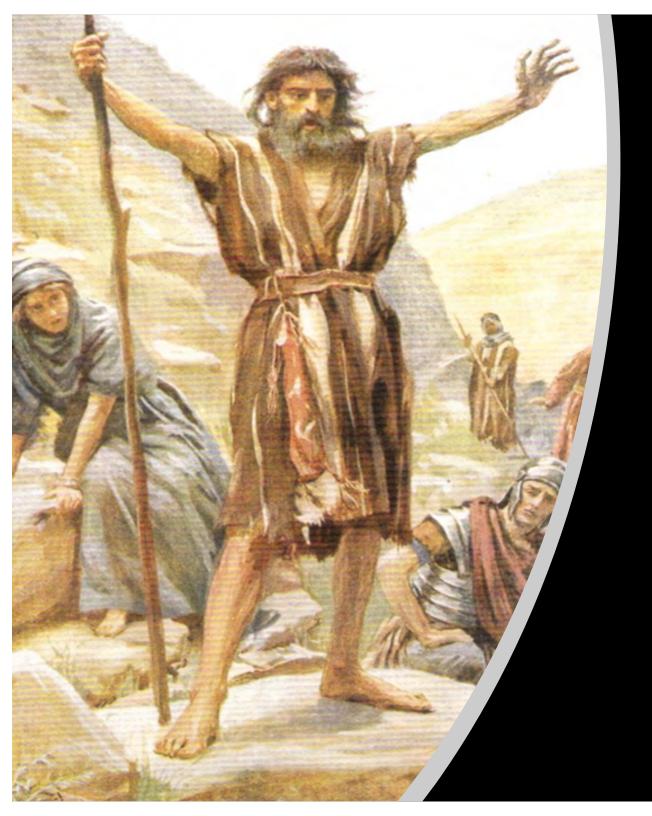
John's job, *our job*, in a world running from the True God -

PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD!!

## Have an attitude of a lineman – "I WILL NOT BE MOVED!"



# Verse 4 - 6 John's popularity



John did not fit the mold of a "religious" person

#### CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS!

Be careful judging by appearance!

This is **COMMON!!** 

# Verse 7 - 10 John was not politically correct





# The Pharisees and Sadducees did not like one another, yet united to stop Jesus at all costs

John did not mince words to the religious who were keeping people from Jesus

"BROOD OF VIPERS!" - REPENT!

## Today, social media would "CENSOR" him

Anyone keeping people from the True Jesus must be exposed – Ephesians 5: 11

#### Jesus tells it like it is:

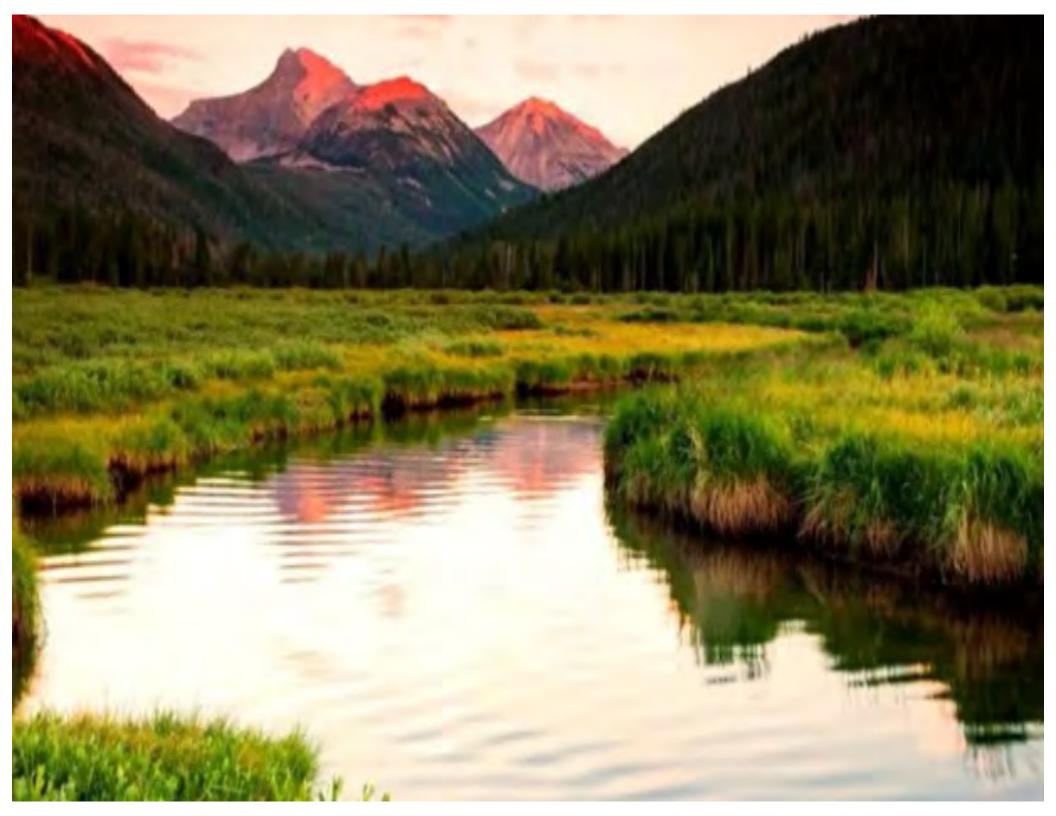
"Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire"

This is a scary statement!

No fruit = no genuine salvation

John had a *"what's going on?"* moment

All will cross the "what's going on?" river





# In a moment of duress, John questioned if Jesus was the Messiah – Matthew 11: 2-6

# John's water baptism VS Jesus' Holy Spirit Baptism

John's baptism was a baptism of repentance in preparation for Messiah

This baptism was an outward sign of commitment to Jehovah, the True God!

Doing something religious *means* nothing if it is not associated with an inward change!

## A proper view of believing is essential!

Believing = "pisteuo" = commit to, place trust in, rely on Jesus as your Savior

It's **PERSONAL!** 

# Jesus' baptism would be with the Holy Spirit and fire:

- 1) The Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost in the form of "tongues of fire"
- 2) From Pentecost on, believers are baptized into the body of Christ at salvation
  1 Corinthians 12: 13

# "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body"

Aorist tense = one time in the past

Passive voice = the subject receives the action of the verb

This is not done by the person, but by God!

- 3) The baptism of the Holy Spirit gives the believer the power to <u>DO!</u> Acts 1: 8
- 4) For Jesus rejectors, they will receive a baptism of the *FIRE OF JUDGMENT*

Judgment is clear when John speaks of a "winnowing fan"

### What is a winnowing fan?

Throwing the wheat into the air, separating the wheat from the chaff - SEPARATION



The chaff will be burned with unquenchable fire (unending fire, eternal fire)

### **CLOSING THOUGHTS:**

God's desire is that all mankind repent, to turn and live Ezekiel 18: 23

The god of this age blinds the minds - 2 Corinthians 4: 4

The devil is a master divider; he divides families, friends, nations, teammates, etc.

One of Satan's master tools is **DISTRACTION**; distracting from the truth

Satan's goal is to keep people distracted, and <u>DECEIVED!</u>

How did John the Baptist deal with the deception of his era?

He <u>saw, judged</u>, and <u>acted;</u> he spoke the TRUTH!

## "One word of truth can dispel a world of lies" (Oz Guiness)

We are living in a world that are <u>fans</u> of Jesus

John was not a fan, but a FOLLOWER!

World religions are <u>fans</u> of Jesus

They view Jesus as a prophet, a wise sage, and someone to learn from, like Buddha

## Jesus is not looking for fans, but FOLLOWERS!

- Fans cheerlead and are in it for what they can get it's all about me!
- Followers follow, obey and serve the Master it's all about Jesus!
- There is a *huge difference* between fans and followers
- The Church in America is comprised mainly of fans
- Fans *never* deny themselves, take up their cross or *FOLLOW* <u>Luke 9: 23</u>

# FOLLOWERS are <u>not</u> distracted, <u>nor</u> deceived, but they speak the truth!

Be a FOLLOWER, not a fan!

"My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me"

John 10: 27

### Like John, be a Follower and introduce the world to JESUS!!