



Heroes & Villains Series, No. 46: John the Baptist, John 1-2
Mike Halpin ~ January 19, 2020

Pro Life Sunday— Roe V Wade, JAN 1973.... 60million....

KS legislature: constitutional amendment, "Value them Both". TUE, 1/21 Capitol room 346-S
Pray

Intro: Inconvenient births.

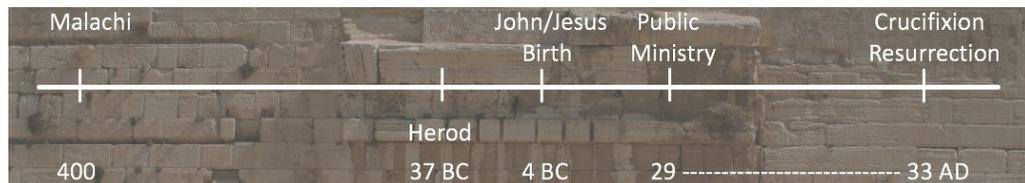
None greater than John the Baptist, Matthew 11:11

John's life and role were prophesied:

- 700 years before his birth by Isaiah, Isaiah 40:3-4.
- 400 years before his birth by Malachi, Malachi 3 & 4.

Main point— faithfulness in the image of Christ is ultimately about living for the sake of and the glory of God, in the unique time, place, and in the roles in which God has placed us.

What does faithfulness require of me based on where and when God has placed me and in the roles I fill?



Text:

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I. Ordained—

Luke 1:13–17

Luke 1:76–80

John's call in life was never in doubt; he would be the key prophet who would prepare the nation for the appearance of their God and Savior.

Isaiah 40:3–5 A voice cries out...

Malachi 3:1 I send my messenger...

Malachi 4:5–6 I will send you Elijah the prophet ...he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children...

Compare these prophecies with these NT texts:

- Matthew 3:3–4
- Matthew 11: 10
- John 1:23

The roles you and I have to fulfill aren't called out centuries before or made as clear as John's but it's helpful to know that it's God who is responsible for the gifts and callings on our lives.

- Our spiritual gifts, 1 Corinthians 12
- Our "good works", Ephesians 2:10
- Our roles:

II. Set Apart FROM—

Imagine John's life growing up as a Nazirite from conception, Numbers 6.

Faithfulness for John meant avoiding anything by which he would be compromised in his holy relationship to God.

Our holy calling: Ephesians 1:4; 5:27, 2 Timothy 1:9, 1 Peter 1:15-16.

What kinds of things must we avoid or refrain from for the sake of our holy calling?

Sin: _____

Influences: _____

We can take a lesson from John: get out or get away from anything that's diverting our affections away from God and the responsibilities he's giving us.

III. Set Apart TO—

A. Calling the nation to repentance/cleaning house

Luke 3:1–5

Matthew 3:1–2

B. Introducing Jesus

Not Me:

Luke 3:15–16

John 3:26–28

Behold the Lamb:

John 1:29–34

John 3:29–30 ... Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease."

When we're delighted in Christ and glad that he's honored it's easy to speak of him to others.

- To what roles has God called me? _____
- What must I do to fill up the time, place and roles God has given me? _____

- Do I find my joy complete when Christ is honored? _____