

**INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CHURCH (IBC) LINZ**

**Flötzerweg 156 (Neue Heimat) 4030 Linz**

*...then you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free. Jn.8:32*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE**

**17:05:15**

**Theme: COMMISSIONED MESSENGERS REJECTED**

**Memory Verse:** *Matthew 17:10 “And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?”*

**Texts: Mathew 17:10-13, Psalm 2:10-12, Mark 9:11-13**

Jesus told Peter, James and John to tell no one man about the transfiguration until after His resurrection. First, this is a mark of the Lord’s humility. It would not have been proper for Him, during the days of his humiliation, to recommend public acclaim. Beyond this however is the fact that Jesus knew that the three disciples did not fully understand what they had seen. It was impossible for them to explain what they did not understand. True, they knew that He was the promised Messiah, but they still had more to learn about the significance of His death and resurrection. Their incomplete understanding is reflected in their question, “Why then say the scribes the Elias must first come? (Mathew 17:10)

Christ’s answer showed the disciples that this prophecy actually referred to John the Baptist who, in the spirit and the power of Elijah (Luke 1:17) prepared the way of the Messiah in many ways John the Baptist resembled the fearless prophet Elijah. John, like Elijah, was a preacher of moral uprightness (1 Kings 18:18, 21; Mathew 3:1, 2, 7-10). He preached against sin, stood up for righteousness and warned about God’s judgment on sin and impenitent sinners. Like Elijah of old, John the Baptist turned many people to righteousness.

He refused to compromise his conscience or bend scriptural principles for the sake of status or security (Mathew 14:1-4; Mark 6:14-20). As a man of God, he obeyed God completely and remained loyal to the truth. By his ministry, John the Baptist was a channel of blessing to many Jews of his time. By his message to them, he exhorted them to have a change of heart, mind and life so their lives could become pleasing to God (Malachi 4.5, 6; Mathew 3:1, 2, 8).