

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. 07. 16

Theme: Personality of the Forerunner

Memory verse: *Luke chapter one verse seventy-six: "And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;"*

Texts: Matthew3: 1-4, Luke 1: 12-17, Matthew 11:7-14

John's birth, character and calling were foretold by God, through angel Gabriel and was prophesied by Malachi, the last minor prophet (Malachi 3: 1). Prior to this, there had been 110 prophecies for many years after Malachi's prophecy. The appearance and lifestyle of John the Baptist matched his calling. His clothing and food were simple. Indeed came in the power and spirit of Elijah.

Though honoured by men, he chose a self denying lifestyle and made himself very simple. He was exalting Christ and honouring God all the time. What a lesson to believers to strive to decrease, while Christ increases into prominence in our lives and ministries. "He must increase but I must decrease"(John 3: 30).

Some challenging qualities characterise the life of John the Baptist. These include courage in proclaiming the truth, reduce superiority in self worth and esteem commitment to the task and compassion for the lost. He also showed forth consecration through self denial, concern for the eternal destiny of his hearers and centralised Christ in his preaching. Though John did no miracle, his forth righteousness, faithfulness and forcefulness in declaring the word of God made his ministry fruitful. Beloved Christians how is your personality compared to John the Baptist?