

## Birth of John the Baptist – C

This gospel is 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the story of the birth of J the B.

J's father was Zachariah – one of the priests in the temple in Jerusalem

Zachariah was chosen by lot to serve in the Holy of Holies

Big deal – Holies place in the temple – many priests had visions doing it

So much so that they'd faint, or die – so they tied a cord around the ankle of priests

Zachariah has a vision – Gabriel – “You will have a son, & name him John”

Zachariah was an old man and asked how this will be

Gabriel – “Anything possible for God, but since you doubted, you will be mute”.

Zach comes out mute and all know he'd seen a vision

2<sup>nd</sup> part of this story is today's gospel – the baby is born

Everyone wants to name him Zachariah

Elizabeth says JOHN

The go to Zachariah, the father – he writes on a tablet JOHN – and he voice comes back

All rejoice, but marvel at what this child will be

Jesus said that there had never been a greater prophet than John the Baptist

- Every year on June 24 – Solemnity of the Birth of J the B.
- Considered so important, that when 06/24 falls on Sun – it bumps the Sunday lit.

So what did J the B do?

1. A Voice Crying in the wilderness – Prepare the way of the Lord

John prepares the people for the coming of Jesus

2. J the B called people to repentance – preparing them for JC

He starts by proclaiming the need to repent and baptizes people

“Repent – Be Washed Clean – Sin no more”

It all starts here

REPENTANCE and FORGIVENESS OF SIN

J the B baptized with water

JC washes us with His blood & we're redeemed, made clean, forgiven

3. J the B points out JC

It made me wonder – who has been J the B for you?

Take a minute

Who is your J the B – who has brought you closer to JC? (I'll wait)

Now here's another question:

Who have you been J the B for?

Who have you brought to JC?

Who needs you to be their J the B? (I'll wait)

What are you going to do about it?