

A Few Things They Didn't Like About John The Baptist

I. Introduction:

A. John was a chosen messenger to prepare the way for Christ (**Matthew 3:1-3**).

1. Isaiah spoke of him (**Isaiah 40:1-5**).

2. John confirmed such (**John 1:23**).

B. Consider who God chose to be John's parents, what was told to them, and about John's birth (**Luke 1:5-25; 1:57-66**).

II. Body: John Was A Plain Speaking Messenger Of God (**Luke 3:1-22**).

A. They didn't like John because, without respect of persons, he taught against unscriptural marriage (**Mark 6:12-29**).

1. Under the Law of Moses there was a loose law about putting away one's wife (**Deuteronomy 24:1-4**).

2. Yet, even under the loosest law regarding marriage, having your brother's wife was not acceptable (**Leviticus 18:16** and **Leviticus 20:21**).

3. John preaching against such was preparing the way for Jesus to establish again what was to be from the beginning regarding marriage (**Matthew 19:1-12**; cf. **I Corinthians 7:1-2**).

B. In general, man expects "preachers" to look a certain way. John didn't look the part (**Matthew 3:4**).

1. Jesus called John more than a prophet and stated he didn't wear soft [fine] clothing as they'd expect to see (**Matthew 11:7-10** and **Luke 7:25**).

2. The Lord said, long ago, that man looks on the outward (**I Samuel 16:7**; cf. **John 7:24**).

C. They didn't like John because he would not take the glory or authority that belonged to Jesus (**John 3:22-36**).

1. He outright established who he was not (**John 1:19-28**).

2. When the messenger is faithful and true, he doesn't want the glory or authority (**I Corinthians 3:4-7**)!

III. Conclusion: Those that rejected the teaching of John in their generation rejected the counsel of God (**Luke 7:26-30**). How many people today think they are refusing a messenger when in fact they are really rejecting the counsel of God (**Luke 10:1-16**)?