

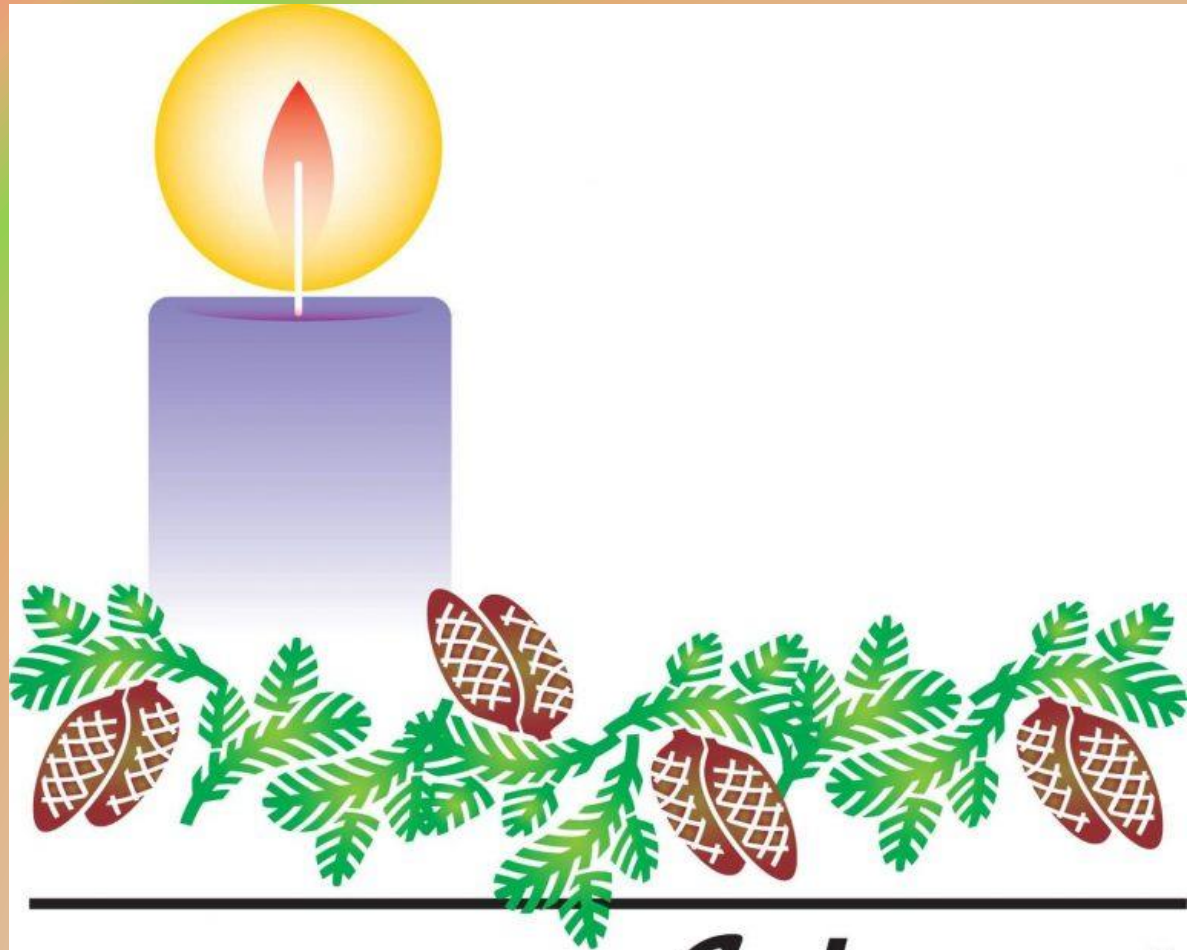
# *Advent Theme: A Saviour Who Christ The Lord*

*Luke 2:11*

Advent is an ancient observance in the Christian church. The earliest advent observance guides appeared in the 500s in what is now France.

*Character: John  
the Baptist*

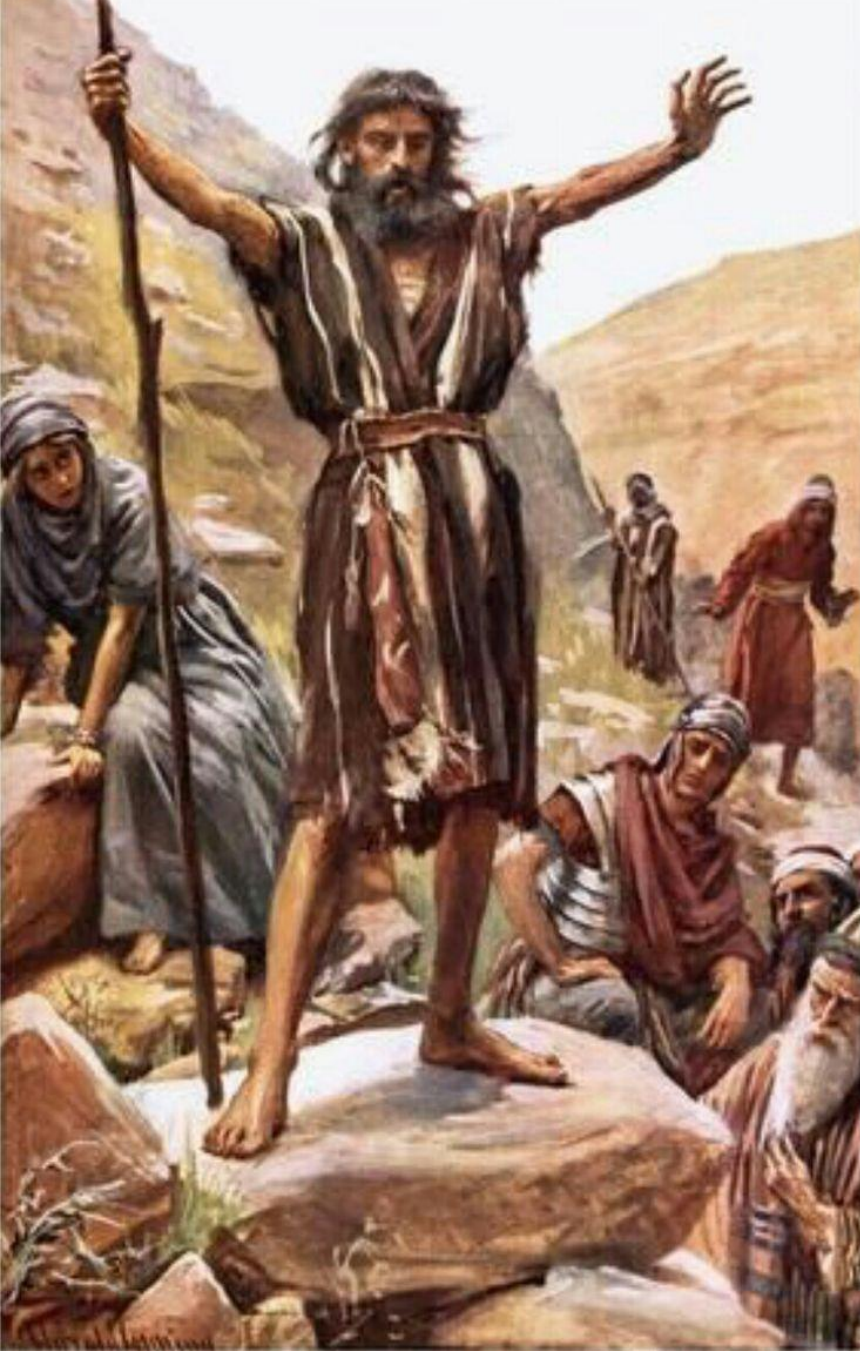
*Theme: Mission*



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FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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# “A Turn Of Heart”

*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*

John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness by Godfrey Durand, died 1896. John was born around 6 BC with Jesus being born about 6 months later.

This 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent generally focuses on the proclamation of the coming of Jesus Christ. The Biblical character most closely associated with this is John the Baptist. We will look at the mission and ministry of John the Baptist.

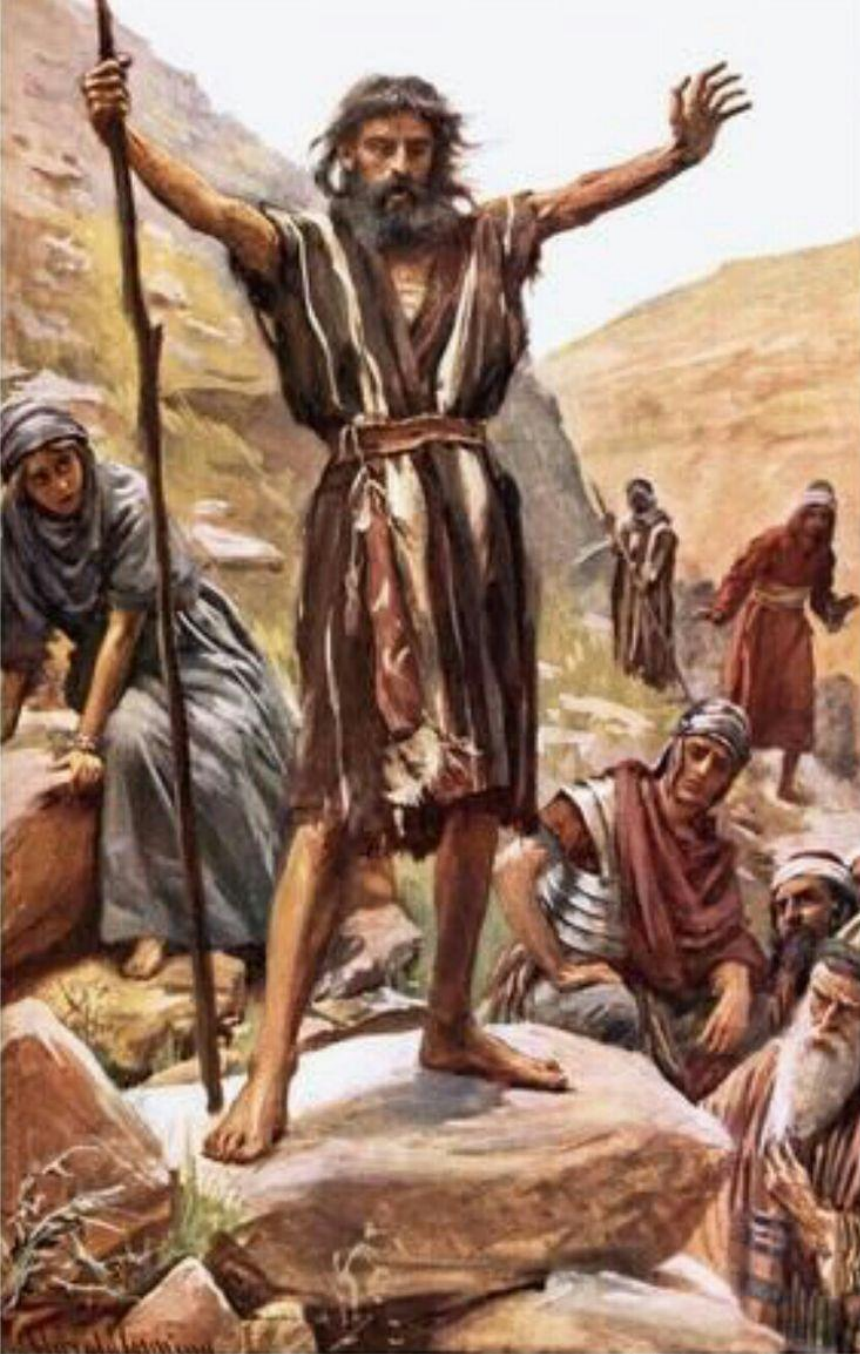
## Malachi 4:1-6 [ESV]

1 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 **But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.** 3 **And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.**

## Malachi 4:1-6 [ESV]

4 "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

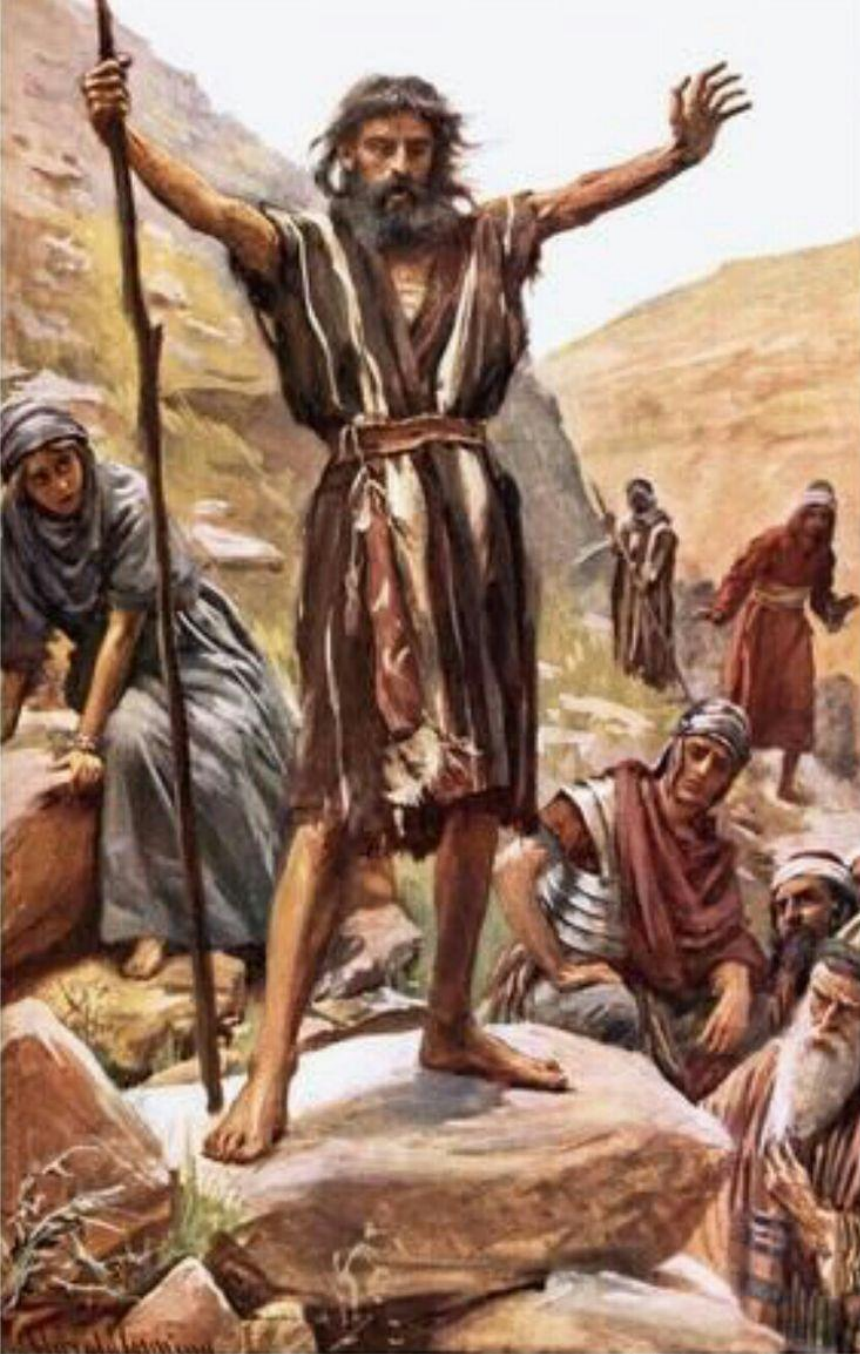


## “A Turn Of Heart”

*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*

John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness by Godfrey Durand, died 1896. John was born around 6 BC with Jesus being born about 6 months later.

John the Baptist was the forerunner of the Messiah and his message was a message of repentance. It was a call to change the direction of our hearts.



## *“A Turn Of Heart”*

*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*

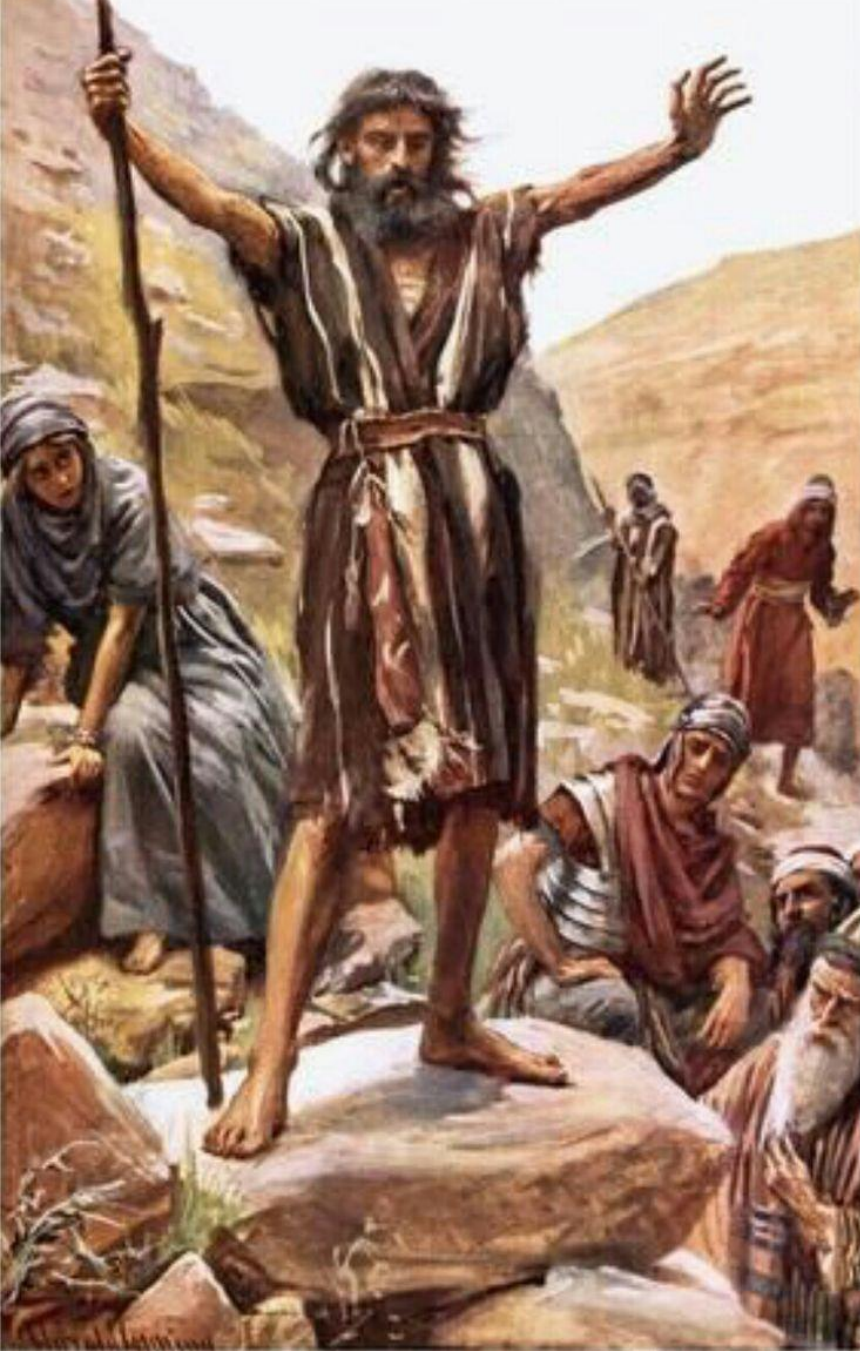
John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness by Godfrey Durand, died 1896. John was born around 6 BC with Jesus being born about 6 months later.

Often the illustration of repentance is to take a U-turn in our thinking. While this is simplistic it does reflect the basic idea.

## Luke 3:7-10 [ESV]

7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 **Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.** And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 9 Even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. **Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**"

10 And the crowds asked him, "**What then shall we do?**"



## “A Turn Of Heart”

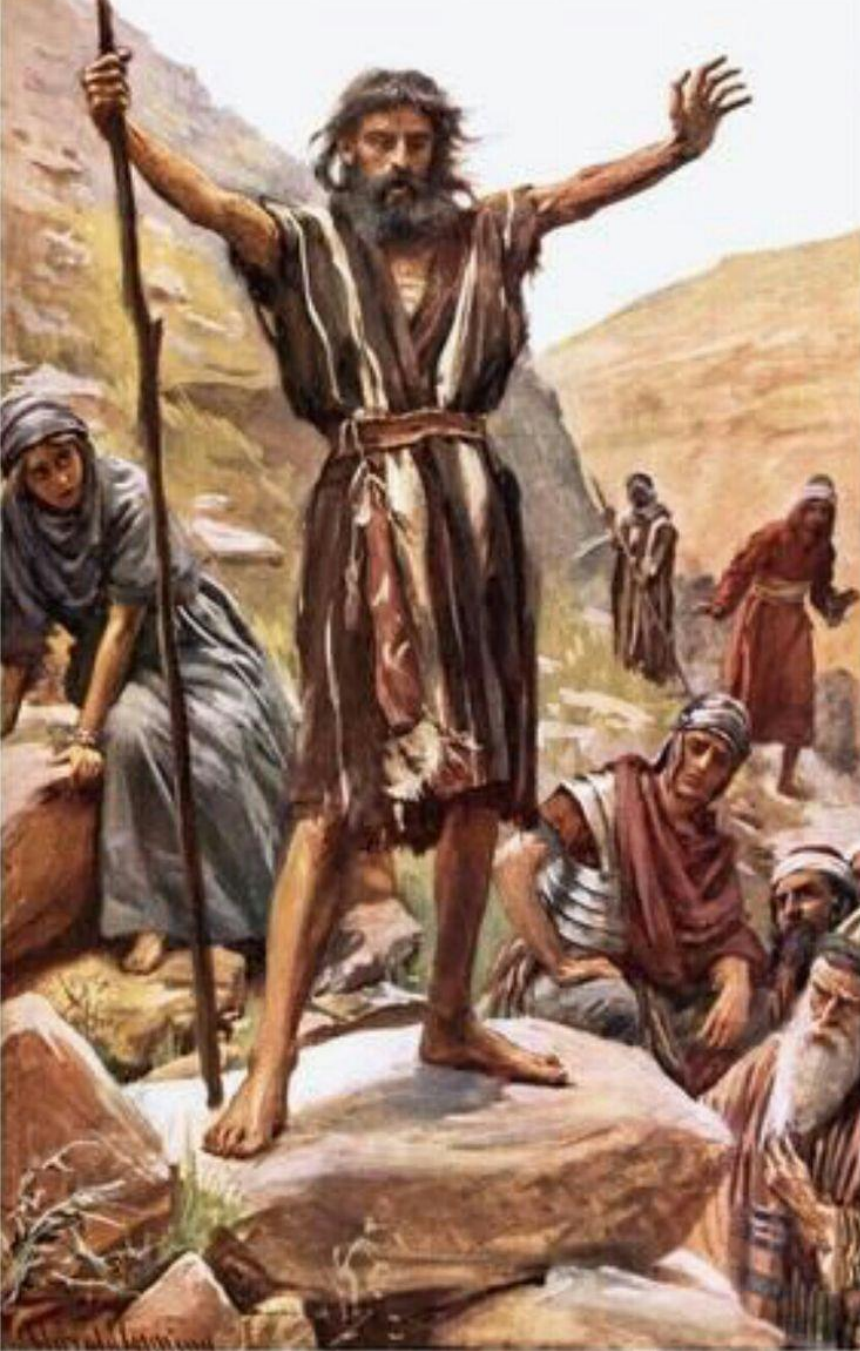
*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*

John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness by Godfrey Durand, died 1896. John was born around 6 BC with Jesus being born about 6 months later.

John the Baptist’s ministry began in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of Tiberius. This was either AD 27 or 28-29. Tiberius was co-regent with Augustus for about a year and it is generally viewed that Luke refers to the co-regency as the beginning of Tiberius’s reign. If so, John was born in 6-5 BC.

Nov. 27, 2022



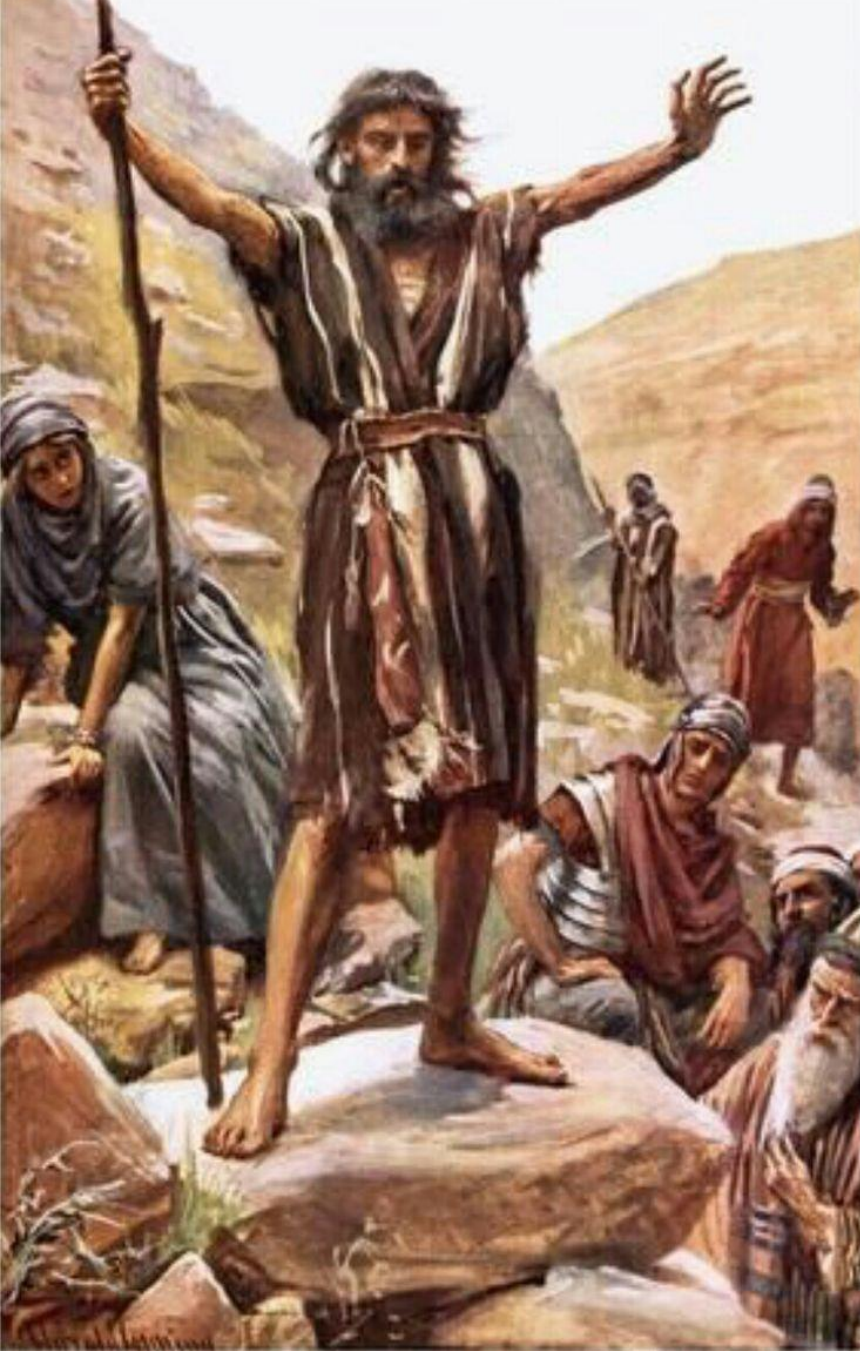


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*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*

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We have habits, attitudes and actions that are destructive to others, ourselves and the culture around us. In addition, we all have wounded the heart of God by our sins.



# “A Turn Of Heart”

*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*

John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness by Godfrey Durand, died 1896. John was born around 6 BC with Jesus being born about 6 months later.

The relationship between children and their parents is where this brokenness manifests itself most. It is these relationships where caustic words and actions leave deep festering wounds that are not easy to heal.

## Mark 6:18-24 [ESV]

17 For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

## Mark 6:18-24 [ESV]

21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. 22 For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you."

23 And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."

24 And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."

# *“A Turn Of Heart”*

*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*



This throne room at the fortress of Machaerus in modern Jordan is the probable site where this event took place.

# *“A Turn Of Heart”*

*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*



This throne room at the fortress of Machaerus in modern Jordan is the probable site where this event took place.

The struggles that often damage Parent and Child relationships are common to all relationships:

1. Unrealized expectations.
2. Disappointment in decisions.
3. Criticism of actions or perspective.
4. Comparisons.
5. Labels and name calling.
6. Broken trust.

# “A Turn Of Heart”

Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17



Josephus mentions the death of John the Baptist and indicates that in the view of the Jewish people Herod's defeat by the Nabateans in AD 36 was God's judgement for the execution of John.

Herodias with the Head of St. John the Baptist by Paul Delaroche, died 1856 – In this painting Herodias with daughter Salome holds a basin with the head of John the Baptist. Salome is called Herodias' daughter.

## 1 Kings 18:21-24 [ESV]

21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. 23 Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it.



## **1 Kings 18:21-24 [ESV]**

24 And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken."

# “A Turn Of Heart”

*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*



We know a great deal about Herodias the granddaughter of Herod the Great. She was married to her uncle Herod II [Philip] who lived in Rome. She had a daughter by him named Salome. When she was around 40 she divorced Herod II and married Herod Antipas [also an uncle]. Her daughter Salome married her elderly great uncle Philip the Tetrarch [Herod the Great had 2 sons named Philip].

Herodias with the Head of St.  
John the Baptist by Paul  
Delaroche, died 1856

Garrison Church of God

Nov. 27, 2022

# “A Turn Of Heart”

*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*



Salome clearly learned to actions and attitudes from her mother that played into later broken relationships. It is not hard to imagine the vicious, brutal and mercenary relationships in the Herod family. When we allow these desires to control our hearts it will be reflected in our relationships.

Herodias with the Head of St.  
John the Baptist by Paul  
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## **Luke 1:13-17 [ESV]**

13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 **And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,** 15 **for he will be great before the Lord.** And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 **And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,** 17 **and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."**

# “A Turn Of Heart”

Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17

The Birth of John the Baptist  
by Jacopo Pontormo, 1526

The promise of the angel Gabriel to Zechariah was that John would bring joy to their lives and reconciliation with God. How do we rebuild, heal and maintain relationships?



# “A Turn Of Heart”

Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17



The Birth of John the Baptist  
by Jacopo Pontormo, 1526

- Here are 7 suggestions adapted from the Christian Counseling site IBCD. [page 1]
- Prepare to overlook faults and slights in the past and present.
  - In serious matters confrontation is necessary.
  - Do not violate your commitment to Christ in trying to maintain the relationship.

# “A Turn Of Heart”

*Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17*



The Birth of John the Baptist  
by Jacopo Pontormo, 1526

Here are 7 suggestions adapted from the Christian Counseling site IBCD. [page 2]

- Set and maintain fair and reasonable boundaries in the relationship.
- As far as it depends on you try to maintain peace.
- Recognize in a destructive relationship sometimes severing the relationship is the only solution.

# “A Turn Of Heart”

Malachi 4:1-6 & Luke 1:13-17



The Birth of John the Baptist  
by Jacopo Pontormo, 1526

Here are 7 suggestions adapted from the Christian Counseling site IBCD. [page 3]

- Even in an estranged relationship have hope and desire for some type of reconciliation.

Even when we must live with broken relationships we do not need to be controlled by other's bad habits or decisions because we trust in Christ.



## 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 [ESV]

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18

**All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of**

**reconciliation;** 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

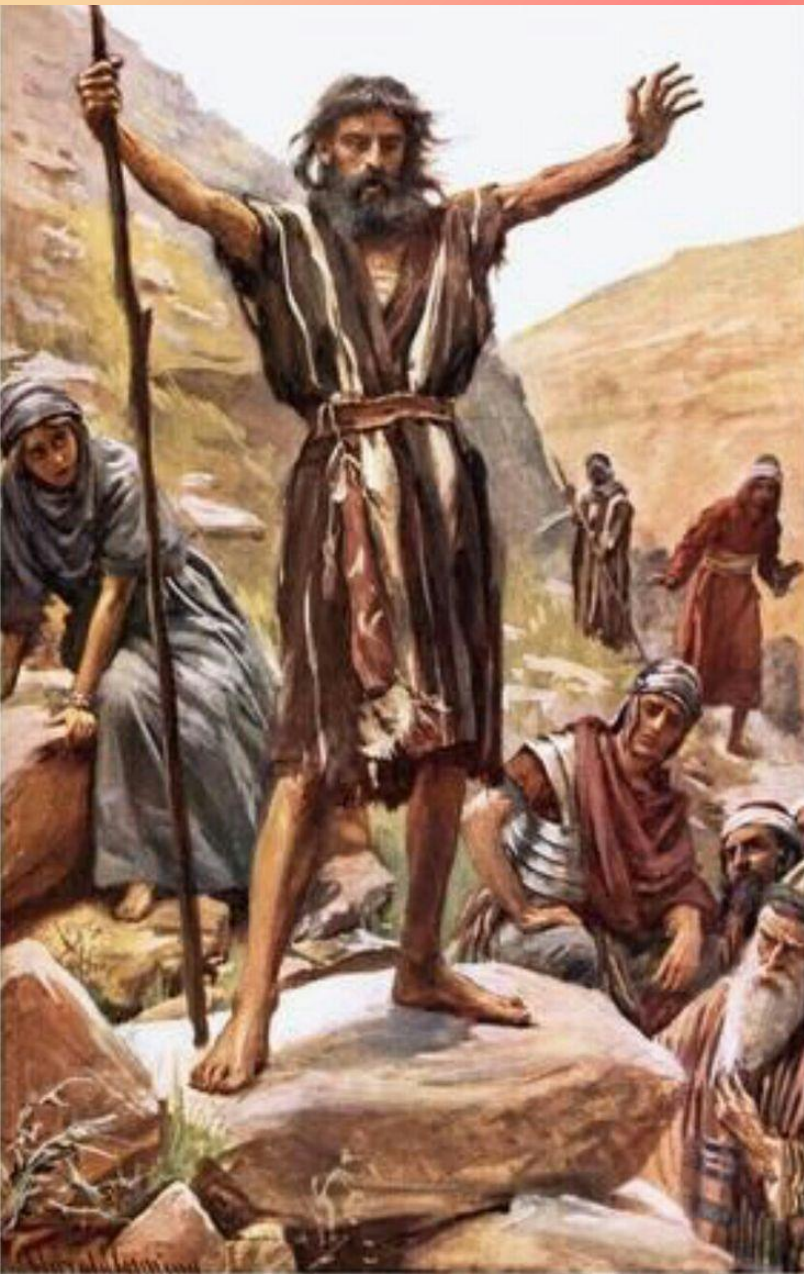
21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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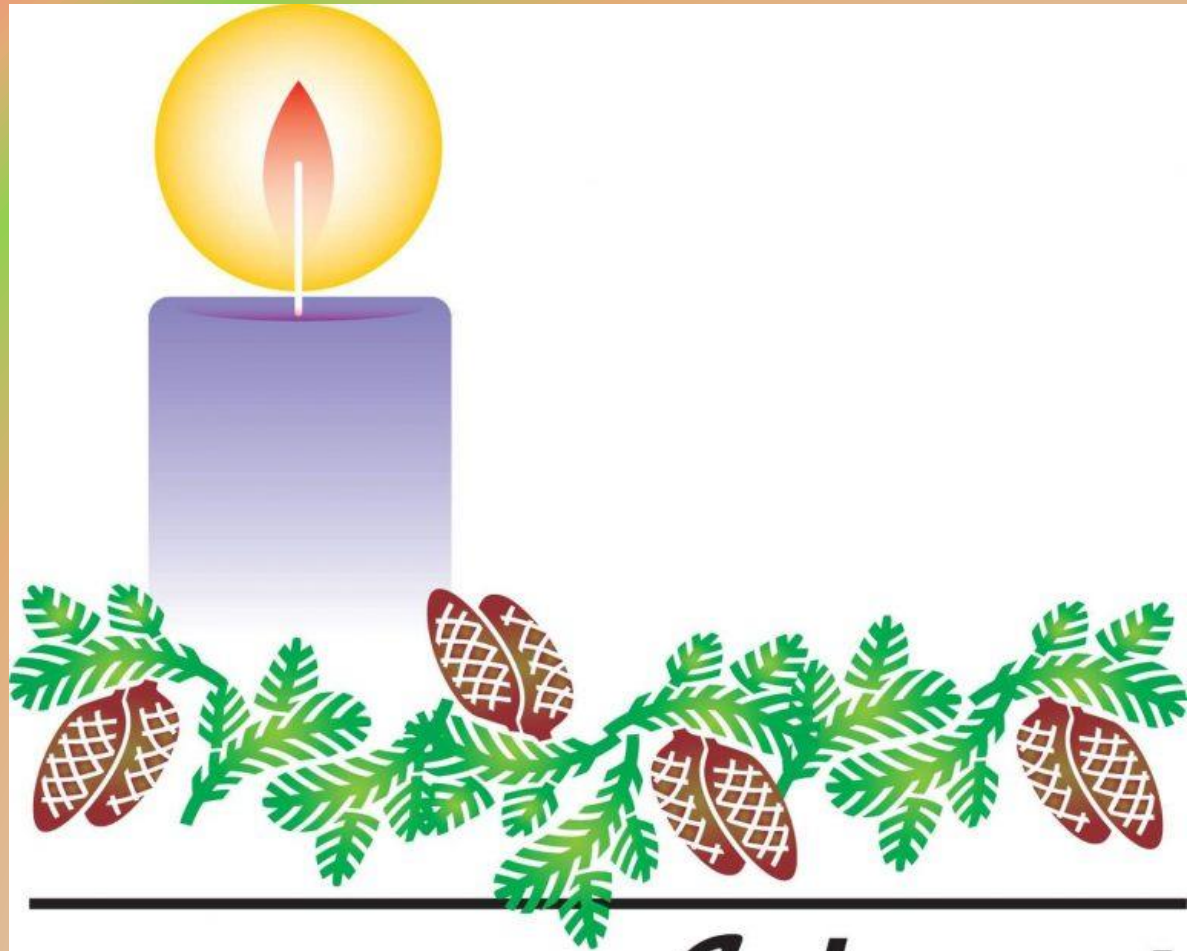
John the Baptist Preaching in the  
Wilderness by Godfrey Durand, died 1896.

Our desire as Christians should be the healing of relationships between individuals and God through repentance and trust in Jesus Christ and between estranged people through repentance and forgiveness. This is our mission in the world.



*Advent Theme: A Saviour Who Christ The Lord*  
*Luke 2:11*

The mission  
of Christmas  
is God  
seeking to  
change the  
hearts of  
humanity.



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FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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