

# John the Baptist Concurrent Ministries

## Introduction

- Christ and John both preach and baptize for a period of perhaps a few months,
- John is imprisoned by Herod Antipas, but his influence continues.

## The Beginning of Christ's Public Ministry

- After the baptism of Christ, John continues to speak of the coming Messiah – John 1:19-28
- Christ has returned from the Temptation and is publicly identified as “the Lamb of God” – John 1:29-34
  - This speaks of Christ's character and purpose, see Isaiah 53:7.
- Some of John's followers being to follow Christ – John 1:35-40

## Two Ministries – One Purpose

- For a few months John and Christ have concurrent ministries.
- Christ and John have similar, overlapping ministries – see lesson 4
  - Both preach repentance – Matthew 3:2, 4:17, etc.
  - Both preach about the coming Kingdom – Matthew 3:2, 4:17, etc.
  - Both practiced baptism – Matthew 3:6, John 4:1-2, etc.
  - Both were part of a larger, heavenly plan – John 3:27,31; 6:38
- The difference is that John's ministry prepared the way for and pointed people to the ministry of Christ.
  - John clearly stated that he was not the Messiah, Christ clearly stated that He was the Messiah – John 3:28, John 4:25-26
  - John clearly knew his role would diminish and Christ's would increase – John 3:30
  - John does not see this as slight, but rather rejoices in the exaltation of Christ – John 3:29

## The Arrest of John

- Historical background
  - Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, is the king (“tetrarch”) over the regions of Galilee and Perea (a Transjordan area northeast of Dead Sea).
  - Early in his reign he had married the Phasaelis, daughter of king Aretas IV of nearby Nabatea.

- When visiting Rome, he began an affair with his half-brother's (Herod II, Herod Philip I) wife Herodias (a granddaughter of Herod the Great).
- Herod Antipas divorced Phasaelis and married Herodias, who had divorced Herod II.
- Phaeselis returned to her father Aretas IV and relations between the two kings soured.
- Eventually war broke out (36 A.D.?) and Aretas defeated Herod.
- John denounced the marriage of Herod and Herodias – Matthew 14:3-4, Mark 6:18
- Herod has John arrested but does not kill him because of his popularity – Matthew 14:5, Mark 6:19-20

## **John's Lingering Influence**

- Though John was imprisoned and eventually killed, the influence of his ministry is still felt through Christ's ministry.
- Mentions of John in events:
  - Christ's journey through Samaria was in part prompted by His popularity surpassing John's – John 4:1
  - Christ ministered at the place that John had baptized – John 10:40
  - Many people turned to Christ from John's witness – John 10:41-42
  - John's (former?) disciples ask Christ about why He did not fast like they did – Matthew 9:14-17, Mark 2:18-22, Luke 5:33-39
  - Some of the people thought that Christ was John the Baptist resurrected – Matthew 16:13-16, Mark 8:27-30, Luke 9:18-19
  - The Lord's Prayer is given when the disciples ask Christ to teach them to pray "as John also taught his disciples" – Luke 11:1
  - The Jewish leaders could neither condemn nor condone John's baptism – Matthew 21:23-27, Mark 11:27-33, Luke 20:1-8
- Christ acknowledges the role of John:
  - As witness of Christ – John 5:32-36
  - As the forerunner (Elijah) – Matthew 17:10-13
  - As the herald of the coming kingdom of God – Luke 16:14-17
  - As preacher of righteousness – Matthew 21:28-32
  - As baptizer in water in anticipation of Christ who baptized with the Holy Ghost – Acts 1:4-5, 11:15-18