

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

September 14, 2024 – The Forerunner Message in the End Times – Erlinda Cruz

John the Baptist: The Model for the Forerunner Ministry

John is the clearest model in Scripture of the end-time forerunner as prophesied in Isaiah 40:3-5. We gain important direction and inspiration from John the Baptist's life and ministry.

1. John's lifestyle: The Fasted Lifestyle – he didn't just fast once a week, his life is fasted all the time.
2. John's ministry style: with humility, refusing to draw attention to himself.
3. John's message: preparing for the unique dynamics of the coming of the Lord.
4. John's view of God: Jesus as a passionate Bridegroom, powerful King, and righteous Judge.

John prepared people by ministering as a prophet and evangelist, calling many to come to Jesus. He announced Jesus' first coming while winning souls and making disciples by teaching them to pray, fast, and live righteously (Matthew 9:14; Luke 3:3-18; 11:1).

We are to imitate John the Baptist's dedication and message since Jesus described him as

- having a burning heart and
- being a shining lamp of ministry that
- clearly made known God's values and ways.
- John brought together the forerunner lifestyle (burning heart) with the forerunner message (lamp).

"He was the burning (heart) and shining lamp (ministry) and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light."

John 5:35

John the Baptist must have been doing ministry for a shorter period of time than Jesus!

But notice that he prepared for almost all of his 30 years of life before even appearing in the scenario of the world. A forerunner spends time hidden more than displayed in the open. John the Baptist was content to be hidden in God, prepared to prepare the way of the Lord. Even if that means a very short period of ministry.

How about you? How much training and preparation would you be willing to go under for a "day" of ministry? Jesus is the same 3.5 years of ministry and 30 years of hiddenness and preparation.

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A forerunner is one who stays hidden more than they are exposed! What about you? Think about this!

Prayer

Abba give us the heart of a forerunner, a heart willing to stay hidden, to come out according to your timing. Help us to not desire the applause of man, but desire only YOUR PLEASURE and GLORY!