

# Bringing it Home For Sunday, December 7, 2025

By Allison de Kanel



Today's Bible story is about John the Baptist. He was Jesus's cousin.

He sounds a little crazy, doesn't he? Eating honey -- okay, that seems reasonable. But locusts? I would probably have avoided him. But it turns out he was a great prophet.

Being a prophet isn't about telling the future, like whether it will snow or who will win the Super Bowl. The job of a prophet is to remind people -- especially powerful people -- how God expects them to live, and what the consequences are if they don't live that way. If you're driving the wrong way down a busy one-way street you're likely to have an accident. That's a consequence.

John the Baptist was telling people they were heading in the wrong direction, and needed to turn around. The Church name for that kind of turning around is repentance.

John also told people about Jesus, who would be greater than he was. But he wasn't jealous. He had his job to do, which was to help people prepare for Jesus, and Jesus would have his own mission.

Today we have our own mission. We get our church and our homes ready for Baby Jesus at Christmas, and we get our hearts ready for him, too.

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, please help me know when I'm going in the wrong direction, so I can turn around. And please come into my heart, at Christmas and every day. Amen.

**Today's Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Artwork: *Saint John the Baptist Preaching*, ca. 1665, by Mattia Preti (Il Cavaliere Calabrese). Originally displayed above an altar, this composition thrusts its beholder into a crowd gathered at the feet of Saint John the Baptist as he foretells the coming of Christ. From the collection of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA.