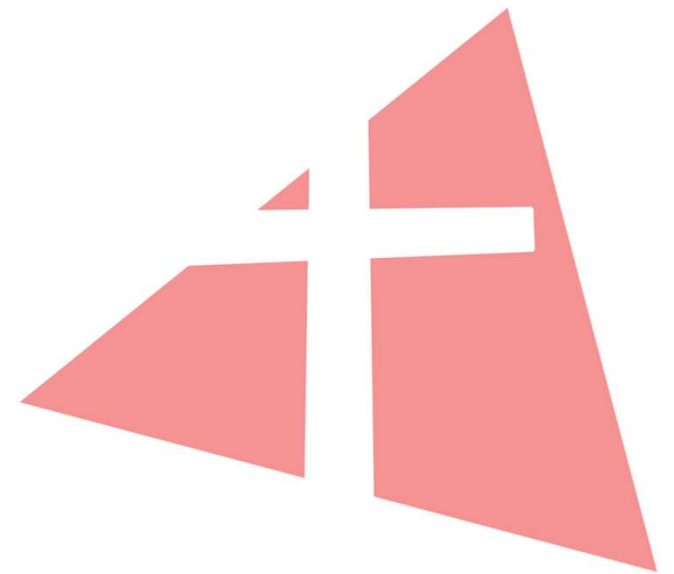


Seasons of Change, Seasons of Endings

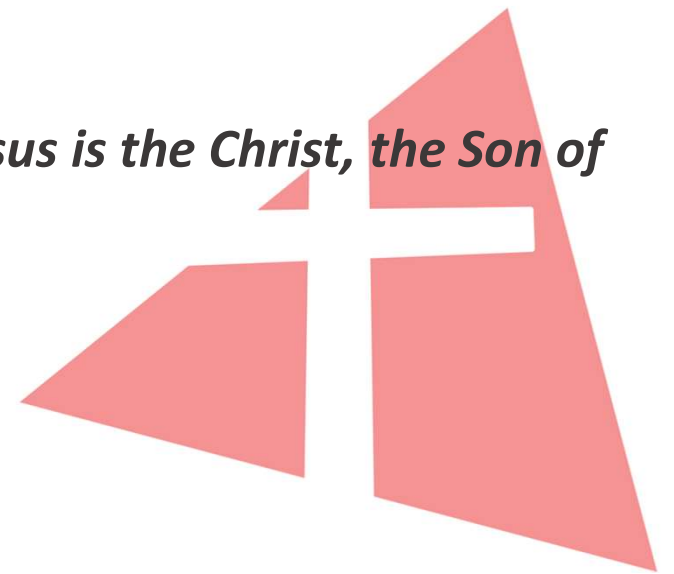
January 15th 2023



Our Series

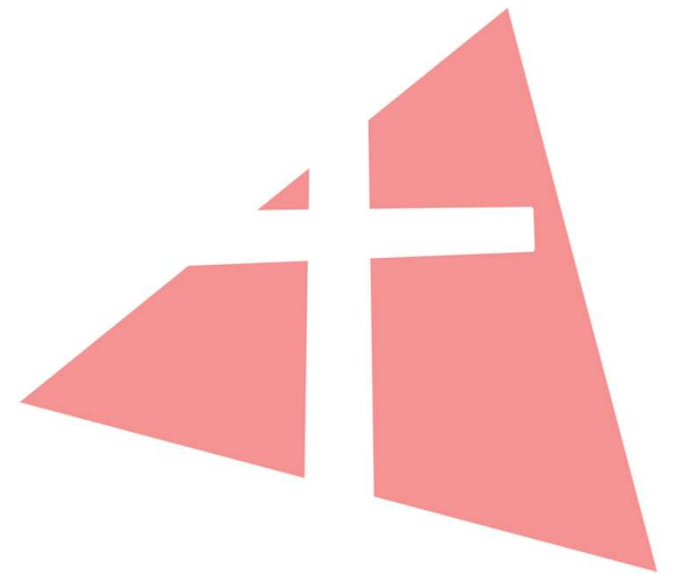
- The Gospel of John

John 20:31 But these are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name.



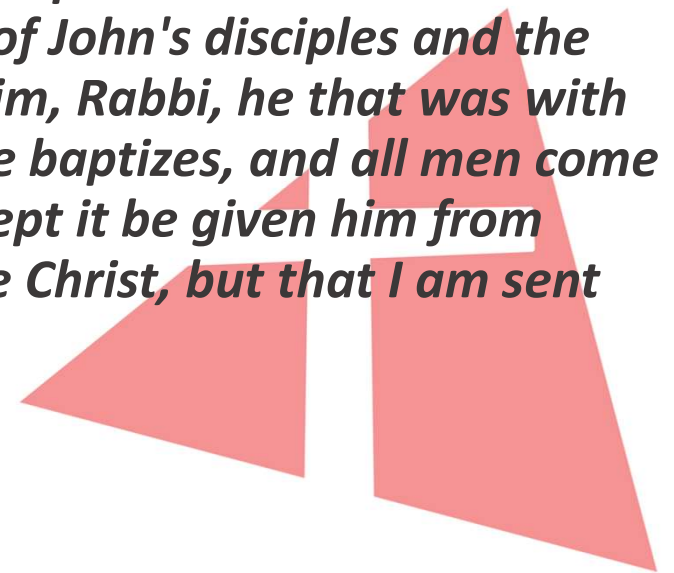
Context

- **John the Baptist: Seasons of Change, Seasons of Endings**
- **He had a huge ministry**
 - Followers
 - Success
 - Opposition
 - Attention
 - ...



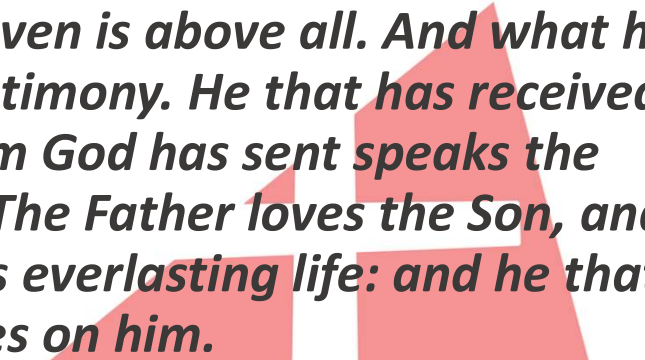
John the Baptist

John 3:22-36 After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. For John was not yet cast into prison. Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with you beyond Jordan, to whom you bear witness, behold, the same baptizes, and all men come to him. John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.



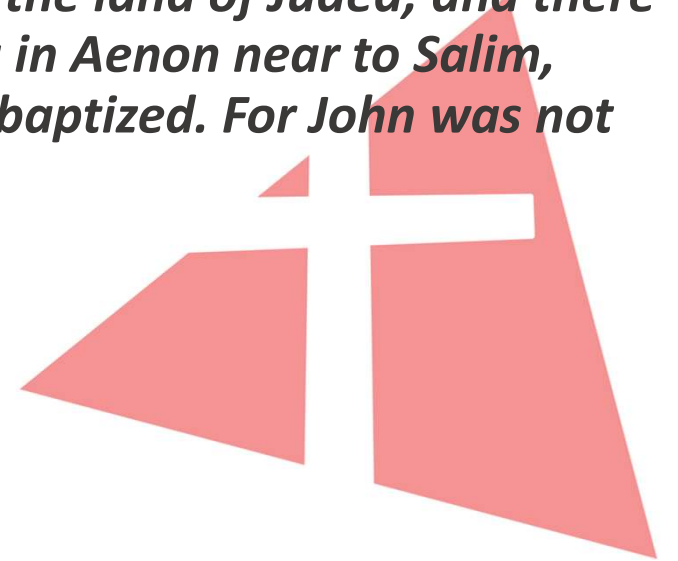
John the Baptist

He that has the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease. He that comes from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaks of the earth: he that comes from heaven is above all. And what he has seen and heard, that he testifies; and no man receives his testimony. He that has received his testimony has set his seal to this that God is true. For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God: for God gives not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand. He that believes on the Son has everlasting life: and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him.



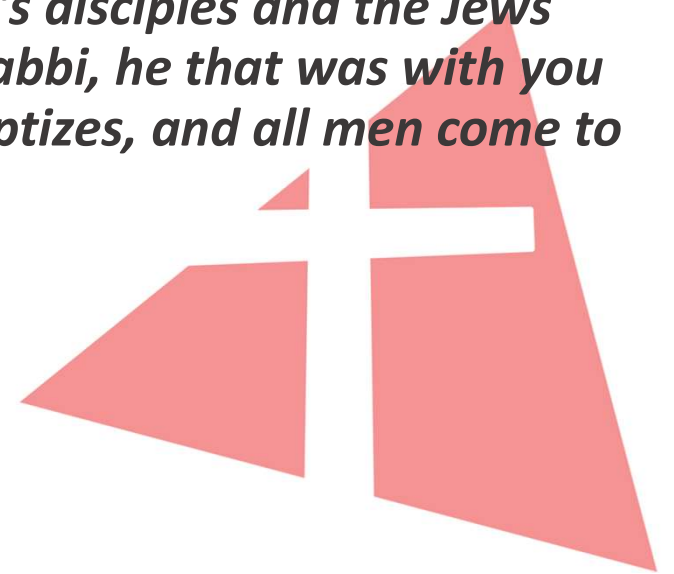
John's ending season

John 3:22-24 After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. For John was not yet cast into prison.



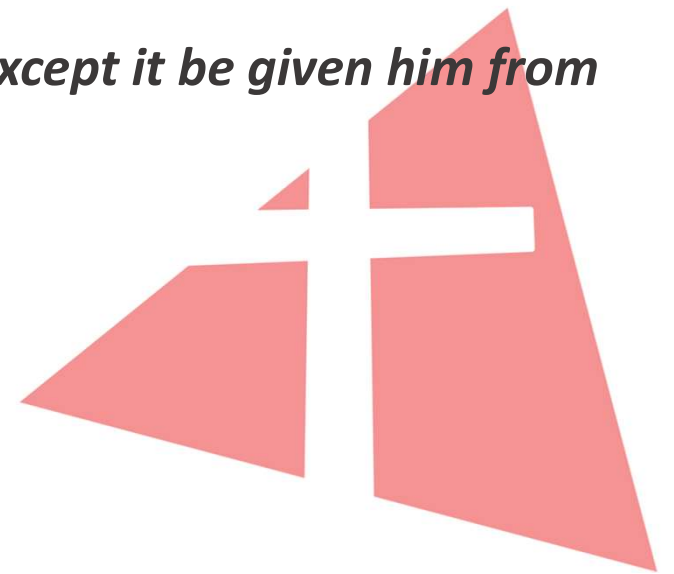
John's ending season

John 3:25-26 Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with you beyond Jordan, to whom you bear witness, behold, the same baptizes, and all men come to him.



John's Attitude

John 3:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.



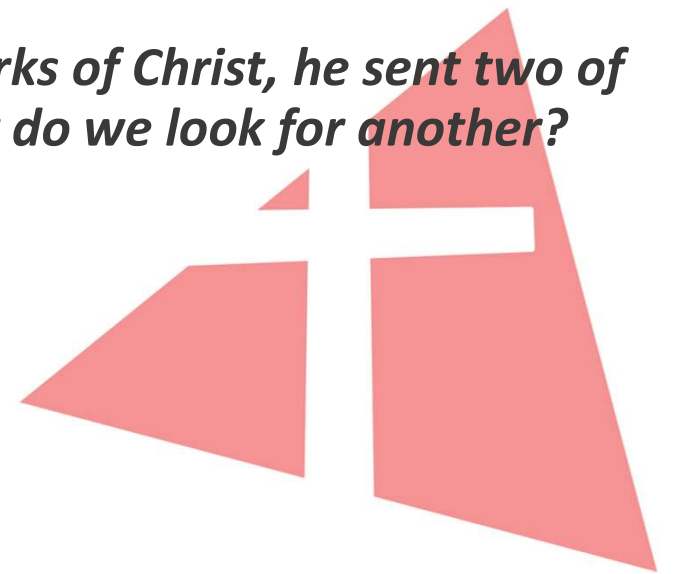
John's Attitude

John 3:28-30 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that has the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.



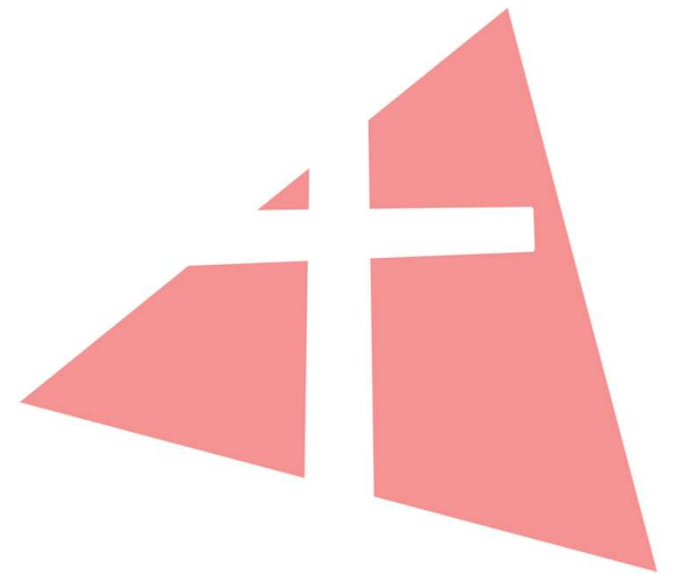
John's Attitude

Matthew 11:2-3 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Are you he that should come, or do we look for another?



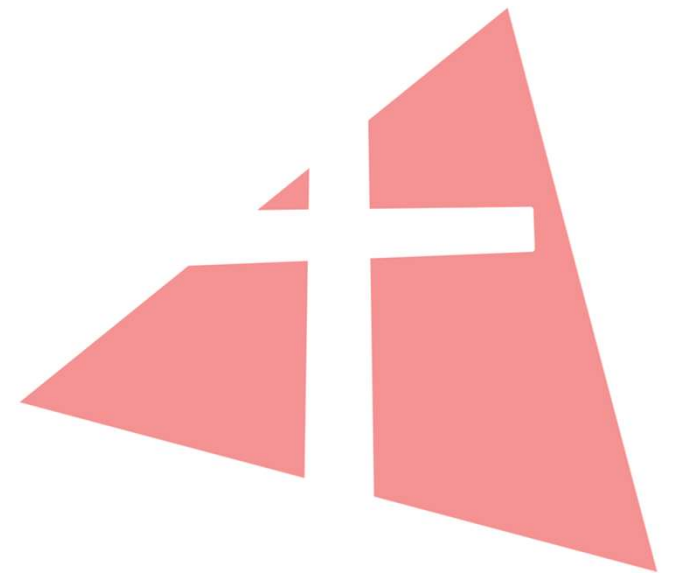
John's Season

- A season of change
- A season of “things ending”
- A season of letting go
- A season of loss



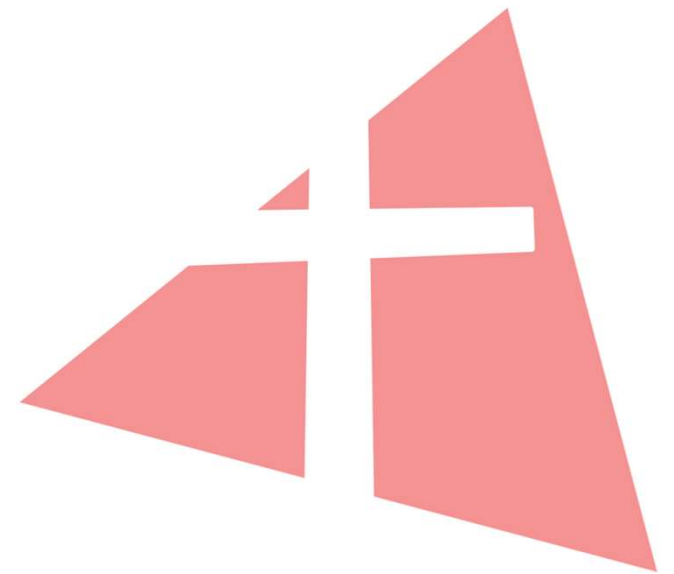
John's Heart

- I don't care about these worldly things
- I care about doing God's will
- He pointed people towards Jesus
- He didn't care about himself
- He didn't care about "worldly success"



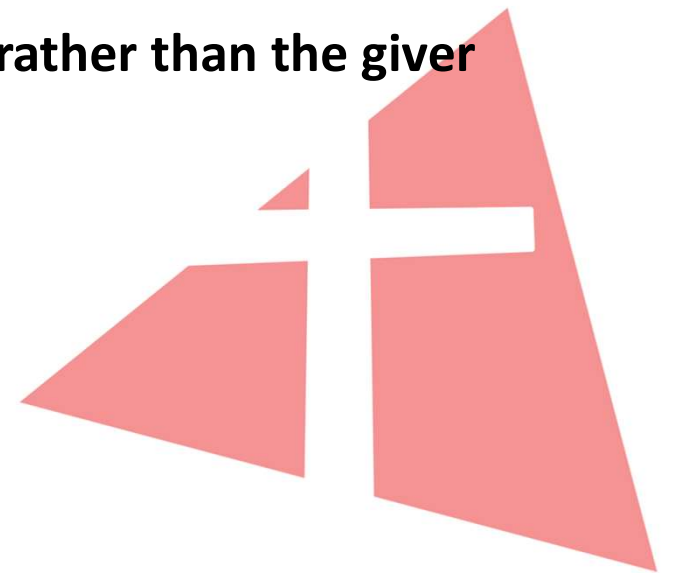
King Saul

- King Saul reacted the exact opposite way to John the Baptist



Application

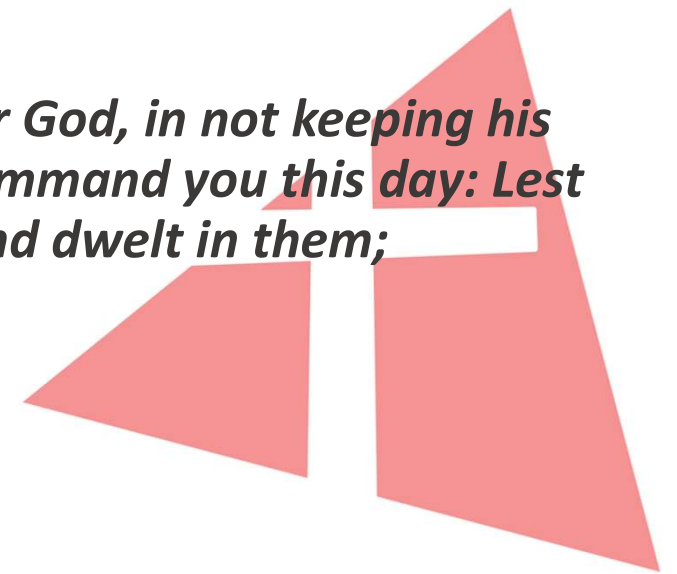
- **When God blesses us, we will be tempted to focus on the gift rather than the giver**
- **John was able to overcome this temptation**



Blessings turning into idols

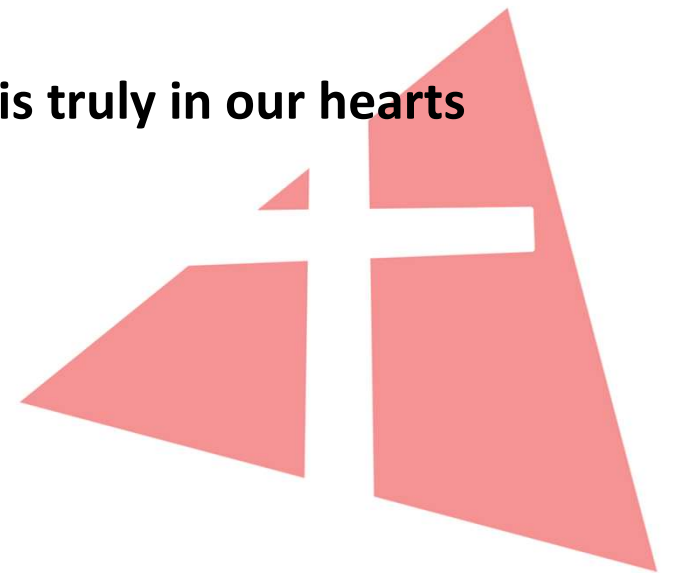
- God's gifts and blessings can easily turn into idols

Deuteronomy 8:11-12 Beware that you forget not the LORD your God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command you this day: Lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built fine houses, and dwelt in them;



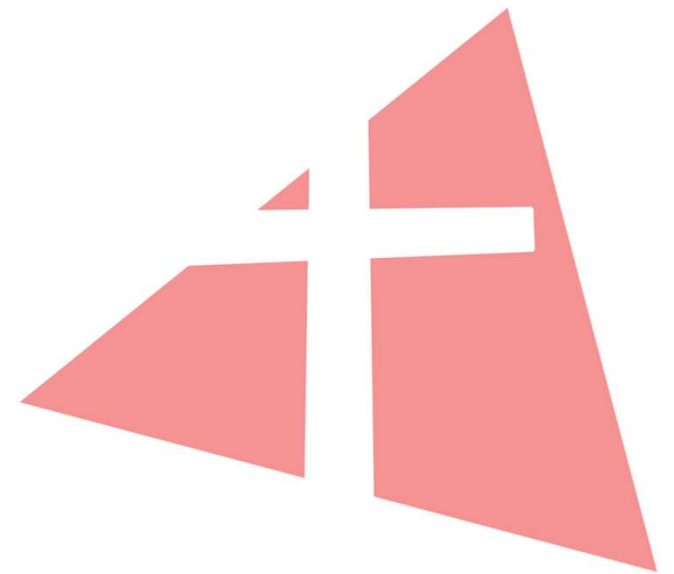
Seasons of change and endings

- **Seasons of change and seasons of endings often expose what is truly in our hearts**



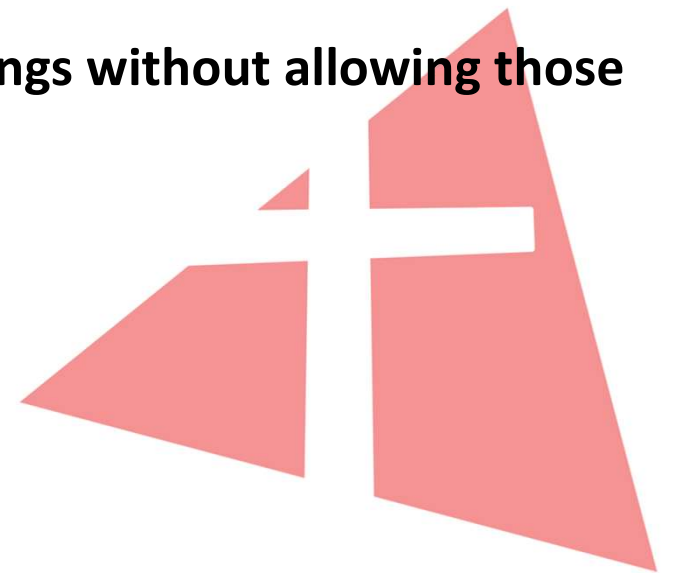
It's all about Jesus

- **Jesus' life was all about honoring the Father**
- **Our life should be all about honoring Jesus**



In Conclusion

- **John the Baptist was a great example of receiving God's blessings without allowing those blessings to enter his heart**





Holy
COMMUNION

REMEMBER **HIS** SACRIFICE