

Forerunners – Six-Fold Characteristics

I. INTRODUCTION – JOHN THE BAPTIST IN THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH

- A. The church is living in pivotal times. More than any other time in history, we need to be aware of what Jesus is saying and doing in the earth. We must have our ears to the ground and our hearts uncluttered from things that would slow us down.
- B. John the Baptist was a forerunner of Jesus. There was something different about this one than any other prophet who had ever lived. He was sent to prepare the way of the Lord!
- “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’” (Matt. 3:1-3)***
- “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of woman there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist – For since the time of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force.” (Matt. 11:11-12)***
- C. John the Baptist lived in the desert. His lifestyle was simple for the purpose of prayer. *He came neither eating or drinking*, meaning he fasted regularly (Matt. 11:18). His lifestyle was a prophetic word to Israel. John was not motivated by guilt of fear, but by a burning desire and prophetic vision. John was in touch with a higher pleasure and a deeper reality. John the Baptist didn't simply have a message. He was the message!¹

II. THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH -- SIX-FOLD MANIFESTATION

- A. God is raising up the Elijah Generation today. Like John the Baptist, the characteristics of those who carry this anointing are unique. I believe there are six unique characteristics of those who walk in the spirit of Elijah.
1. **Radical Lifestyles of prayer and fasting.** We have barely scratched the surface of the power that will be released through a company of dedicated individuals who are given to prayer and fasting. Samuel Howells writes: *“The secret is to learn the art of prevailing – so the Lord can lead you to some of those hard fields. It all depends on prayer and intercession.”*² Elijah was known for prayer (James 5:17-18).
 2. **Bold Preaching that confronts the antichrist system with the love of Jesus.** We can preach in an angry condemning way, or we can preach with humility, brokenness, and love for a world that is totally lost. You cannot love lost people without an impartation of the love of Christ! ***“For the love of Christ compels us...!” (2 Cor. 5:14)***

¹ The Priesthood – David Bradshaw

² Samuel Rees Howells, A Life of Intercession

3. **Signs and wonders on a scale that surpasses both the book of Acts and Exodus.** Scriptures tell us that in the last days, God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh in dramatic proportions, with signs and wonders following the preaching of the Word! (Acts 2:16-21, Mark 16:20).
“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through accompanying signs. Amen!” (Mark 16:20)
4. **Generational Healing through a revelation of Abba, Father.** We live in a fatherless generation. The problems we are encountering in America today (Abortion, Homosexuality, racial conflict, anthem issues) are all because many do not know Father God as their Abba Father. Marriages and families are healed in Christ. Cities and Communities. Nations and cultures all find wholeness and restoration through the revelation as the love of the Father.
5. **An emphasis on the First Commandment being in first place, confronting idolatry.** Can I say this: I believe that love affair and idolatry that America is having with football is being confronted by God today. I know I may not gain friends saying that. If you want to watch a sickening spectacle, watch the procession of the winning team members at the next super bowl as they kiss the trophy as it passes by! God is calling people back to loving Him with all of our hearts. Nothing is to take the place of that! No person or thing!
6. **Consecration and holiness and the superior pleasures of God.** The Lord is calling us, like Elijah and John the Baptist, into wholehearted consecration and holiness. Consecration means dedication. Holiness is loving what God loves and hating what He hates.
 - a. The pleasures of loving Jesus far outweigh the pleasures of this life. The Lord gives us things to enjoy and bring happiness, but nothing compares to the pleasures of loving Jesus and knowing we are loved by Him.

“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who richly gives us all things to enjoy.” (1Tim. 6:17).

⁶ “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷ The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸ but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Deu. 7:6-8)