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John the Baptist in the Gospels & Josephus

This week there will be comparison between Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-22, John 1:19-34. John the Baptist prepares a way for Jesus, and he is preaching in the wilderness advising the people to repent for their sins. The kingdom of heaven is near, and he is warning the people, he also reminds them of how Isaiah the prophet warned about this prior. This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him’” (Matt 3:3). Matthew 3 takes us on a description of what John the Baptist was wearing, camels’ hair, a leather belt around his waist. His food of locusts and wild honey. The audience he had were people from Jerusalem and Judea, and the whole region of the Jordan. The Baptism of Jesus comes into play as well the Pharisees and Sadducees lurking around.

Mark 1:1-11 also speaks on how John the Baptist prepares the way, however when John was speaking to the people its described as the peoples confessing of their sins and more into the description of how he is baptizing them. He also goes on to explain the Holy Spirit and how he is not worthy of even strapping Jesus’s sandals. Jesus is also explained to be baptized and the Holy Spirit descends onto him like a dove. The voice of God is mentioned, and He says, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” These are all similar but they breakdown

different perspectives and viewing points of the same situation. They all play a significant role in explaining the story of John the Baptist and his purpose.