



## **We Do Not Like Prophets**

**Read:** Luke 3:10-18

We do not like prophets. We do not like judgment. We do not like our morally relative consciences' to be pricked. We do not want to be told by some nut job in camel skin that our salvation may be in jeopardy or that we might have to change.

But that is exactly John the Baptist's message. He stands as a dichotomy to secular society, which minimises natural law and Christian values. He is uncompromising in his moral integrity and eventually it costs him his life at the hands of Herod. That is why our Lord calls him the greatest of prophets.

John's message was that of preparation. He exhorts us to cast aside that which prevents God's advent from coming in our lives. Those who fail to do so will be burnt like chaff in unquenchable fire. These words make us uneasy. They should. They are a prophetic warning, and immediately we want to reject them. Somehow our modern society has been inundated with the false notion that if we are simply "good people" our eternal salvation is guaranteed. We do not like to hear that more is required of us than simply believing in a higher power.

Conversion, which is the only path to salvation, requires change. John is very clear about that. Scripture is very clear about that. Not only must we accept Jesus, we must start acting like his disciples by embodying love and charity. We must begin to conform our moral actions according to the gospel and the teachings of the Church. We cannot sit by and allow ourselves to become our own judge and jury, making up our own moral laws to suit our personal preferences. Our actions, as John indicates, must conform to the will of Christ.

John is "the prophet of tough love". He gives us a stern warning. He administers the necessary bitter medicine. His words strike a chord. Which is why we do not like prophets.