

John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness.*

He was a strange-looking man, clothed in a hairy camel skin, with a leather belt around his waist. And he ate strange things: locusts and wild honey.

John was announcing a message of forgiveness of sins if people repented* and were baptized. People came from all over to be baptized by John in the River Jordan. They came from the city of Jerusalem and from the countryside all around.

John shouted loudly, 'Someone else is coming. Someone more powerful than me. I am not important enough even to untie his shoes!' John said that although he baptized people with water, the one who was coming would be different. He would baptize people with the Holy Spirit.

Then one day he came. Jesus came from Nazareth to the River Jordan, to be baptized by John. And as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were torn apart and a dove came down; the Holy Spirit descended onto Jesus. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son. I love you and I am pleased with you.'*

Mark 1.4-11



* See *Share the Word*.