

# The Lakeside



## Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday January 8, 2024 - Romans 6: 6-7

*6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—  
7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.*

Read Romans 6 for meditation and inspiration.



## ***GOD'S BELOVED SON***

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Most Biblical scholars believe that John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus. Because it is stated the John's mother Elizabeth and Jesus' mother Mary were related most likely as cousins themselves. Both women had been visited by angels who announced the birth of their sons. For Elizabeth it was a miracle due to her age and Mary, as we know, the miracle was through virgin birth.

John was known as one with a lifestyle of obscurity in the desert and dressing and eating what could be found there. He was a preacher-prophet that presented a public ministry that ended nearly four hundred years of prophetic silence. God was speaking to his people once again. The message of John was: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." When Jesus comes to him that prophecy is fulfilled.

I was once asked how a popular television character from the 1970s defined the concept of faith. He said, "Faith means believing something that nobody in their right mind would believe." There is an element of profound truth in his perception

of faith. Faith is not a mere attitude. As believers, the Presence of God in our lives is an awesome, wondrous, life-giving experience affecting our total being. In today's Gospel Lesson, Mark describes this "Baptism in the Spirit" with dramatic force: "In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove; and a voice came from Heaven, 'You are My beloved Son, with You I am well pleased'".

This is but one of many Gospel episodes in which the sacred authors tell us that the essential being of God was fully embodied and revealed in Jesus of Nazareth at a certain time and place in history. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... In him was life, and the life was the light of men ... and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:1,4,14). For this reason, Jesus is called "Messiah," "King of Kings," "Lord and Savior." We have a Savior, a Lord, a Good Shepherd who will lead us to that very Kingdom that John proclaimed was at hand.

We believe that which is impossible. Truly impossible for us to reach up to God and God's Kingdom but what is impossible for us, is more that possible for God.

In Kingdom citizenship,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger