

*"He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."*

### **Rite 13 class camping trip.**

**Power brokers vs. a humble guy** out in the wilderness, doing his thing, alone.

### **Idea of wilderness. Ever spent the night in the woods?**

Hebrew bible wilderness

ALSO place of safety and divine provision.

Moses; Elijah ...Jesus and his disciples after they have had any one of a number of ordeals.

Luke's gospel (1:80) *"The child [John] grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel."*

### **John =Threshold figure**

**Wilderness is where God provides what we need**, so that WE now the ones "crying out in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'"

Hopeful and necessary message for us today because:

### **World as a wilderness place.**

Isolation—most connected, yet most isolated

Hunger—3.1MM children under 5 die this year

Violence—nearly as many mass shootings as days in 2018—Business Insider

These wilderness moments seem to rule the day—into this wilderness today come **baptism of repentance**.

### **REDEMPTION through John's BAPTISM**

2 kinds: Converts = a whole new way of life;

Ritual washings = cleansing, but only if turned from sins and obeyed God. **Both types called for changed behavior.**

### **Metanoia**

- Baptism of repentance leads to release from sins.
- The release or forgiveness that follows repentance does NOT undo past sins, but it does unbind people from them.
- It opens the way for a life lived in God's service.

### **Jesus as both judge and savior**

What that means: Sentence commuted

Frees us to do what?

= good news that John proclaims, and it is good news not just for us, but for the whole world: "all flesh will see God's salvation."

**Prayer for today. Metanoia, prepare for Jesus who is both judge and salvation.**