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Long Beach Alliance Church • December 2nd, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**He must increase, but I must decrease.
~John 3:30 (NASB)**

1) The Advent Attitude Of John The Baptist

- A) John the Baptist called people to anticipate the coming Messiah, preaching “repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2-3; cf. Isaiah 40:3-4).
- B) When Jesus began His public ministry, He was baptized by John (3:13-17), and called the entire world with the similar message of ‘repent and believe the gospel, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’ (4:17; Mark 1:15).
- C) John was called as a prophet by God through his father, Zacharias, as a forerunner of the Christ. His ministry was like that of Elijah, calling people to repentance and preparation for the coming of Jesus (Luke 1:11-17).
- D) John’s preaching was bold and very popular, resulting in his arrest (Matthew 14:3-5) and eventual death (14:6-12).

2) Be Faithful To The Call

- A) John’s followers (his disciples) was tested/tempted to engage in a popularity contest with Jesus (John 3:25-26). But rather than embrace popularity, he rejoices in his role of “set-up man” for the Messiah (3:27-29).
- B) John’s faithful submission to Christ is an example for all followers of Christ (John 3:30). This simple statement expresses fidelity for all believers to their calling in Christ! The first movement of advent is the call to BE FAITHFUL!