



The Birth of John the Baptizer

You, too, were wonderfully made!

Read:
Isaiah 49:1-6
Psalm 139:1-3, 13-15

Isaiah 49:1-6 shows us that God had a special purpose for John the Baptist since before he was born. The Lord did the same for you! Since the moment of your conception, even before you looked human and had a beating heart and a brain that could think, God created you with a special purpose in mind.



How valuable is your life?

Let's compare the gift of life that God gave to John the Baptizer with your own life.

God has given you a sharp-edged sword, i.e., the ability to speak the truth. It's a gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth.

The Lord is concealing you in the shadow of his arm. No matter how hard your life has been, and no matter how many times you strayed from the Lord, you still belong to him. He has kept you from being snatched by the Evil One.

Even though you have sometimes toiled in vain and your efforts to do God's work have seemingly been for nothing, as if you uselessly spent your strength, your reward is with the Lord. He will give you recompense.

No matter how ugly you think you are, or too short or too tall or diseased or malformed by a birth defect, you were made glorious in the sight of the Lord, your Creator.

Since the moment of your conception, your life has been precious and important to God.

Reflect & Discuss:

† Using Isaiah 49:1-6, how do the words reflect your own life?

† What is most surprising to you? Why? Is it because you see yourself as less useful to the kingdom of God than he sees you?

† What does this scripture tell us about the value of unborn babies? Is this true even if the pregnancy is the result of rape? What about embryos created for invitro fertilization and held frozen in storage?

† God has wonderfully made you and each member of your family and your faith sharing community. Turn to the person next to you and describe at least one thing that can be used as evidence that God made a masterpiece when he created him/her. Then listen as that person does the same for you.

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