

**“Rabbi, He who was with
you beyond the Jordan,
...He is baptizing, and all
are coming to Him!”**

John 3:26



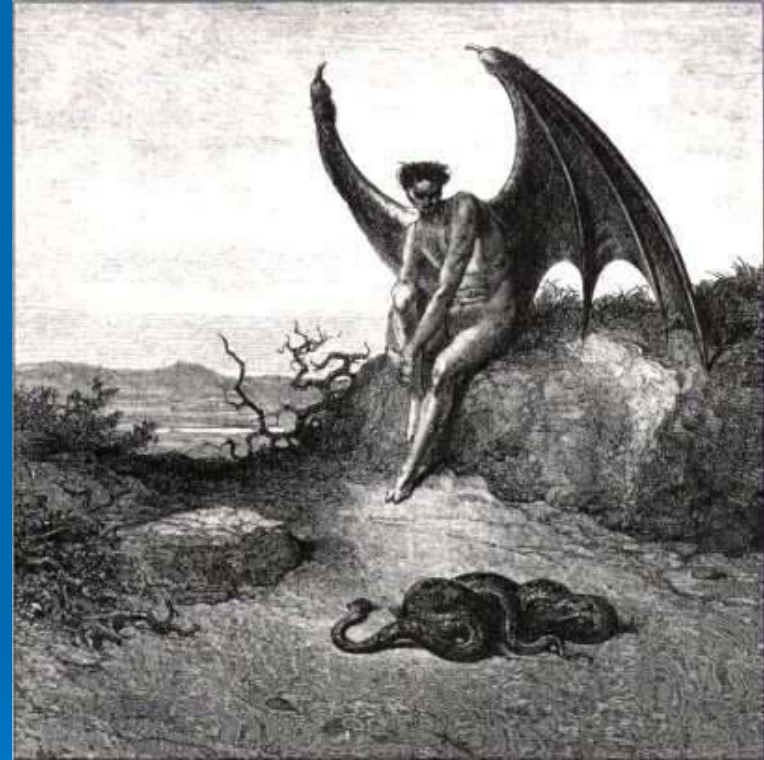
Things to remember lest we
fall in the snare of an
“Ungodly Competition”



❑ It was the reason for the fall of Lucifer

- “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! ... For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; ...I will be like the Most High’”

Isaiah 14:12-14



❑ It occurred between family members

- The example of Cain and Abel
- The example of Esau and Jacob



❑ It was seen among the people of God in the Old Testament

- The example of Korah:
“You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?” *Numbers 16:3*



❑ It was a temporary distraction to the disciples

- “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’”
Matthew 18:1



❑ It also caused the fall of some in the New Testament Church

- “I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us”

3 John 9



Ungodly Competition is...

- The daughter of Pride
- The mother of hatred
- The main reason behind divisions
- Against God's Economy who blessed every member with a different gift



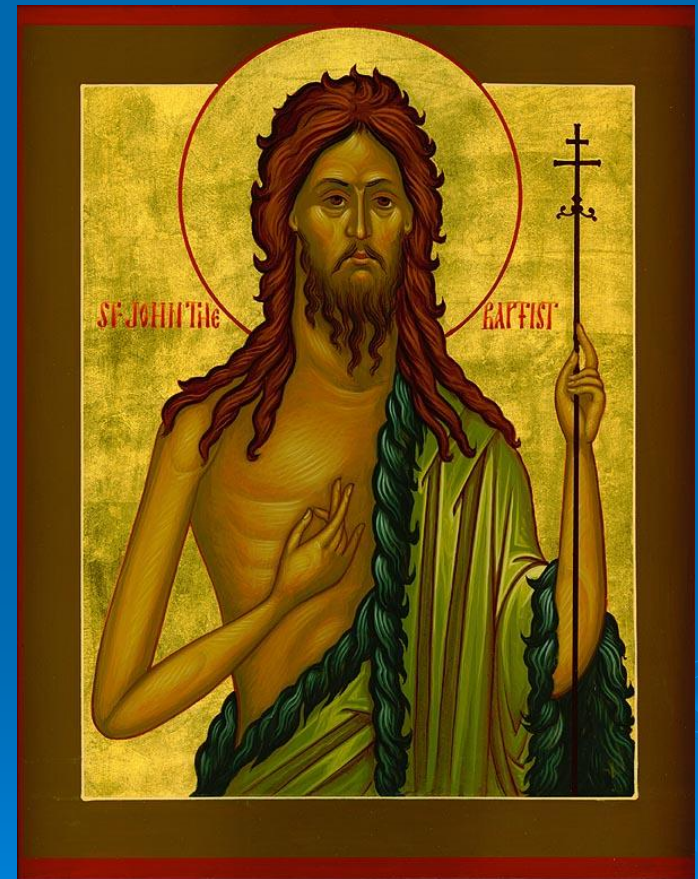
Lessons from St. John the Baptist

- The cousin of the Lord Jesus
- The angel
- The forerunner
- The priest and son of the priest

1. God is the One who gives

- “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven”

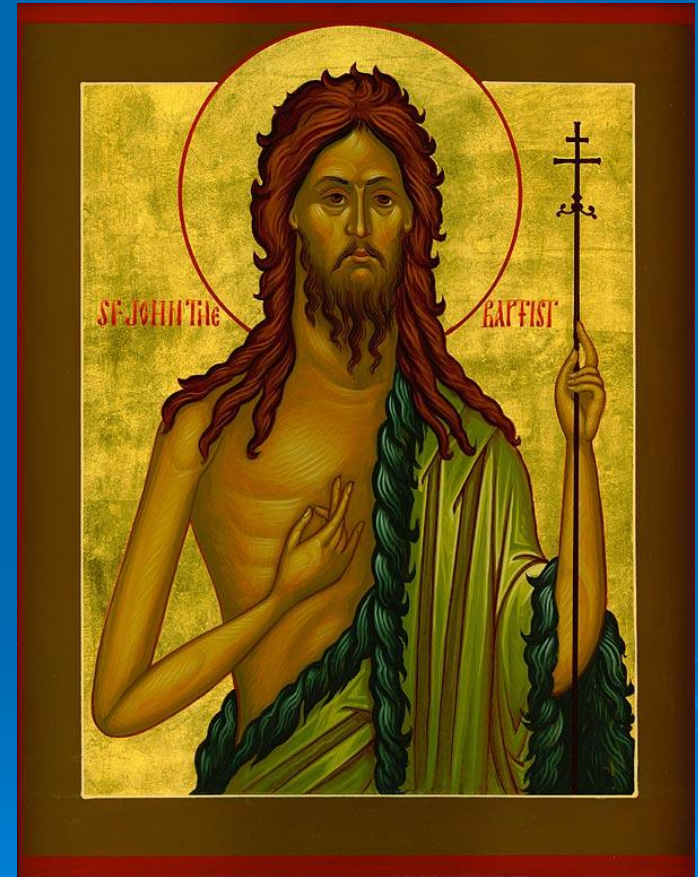
John 3:27



2. I am not the Christ

- “You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’”

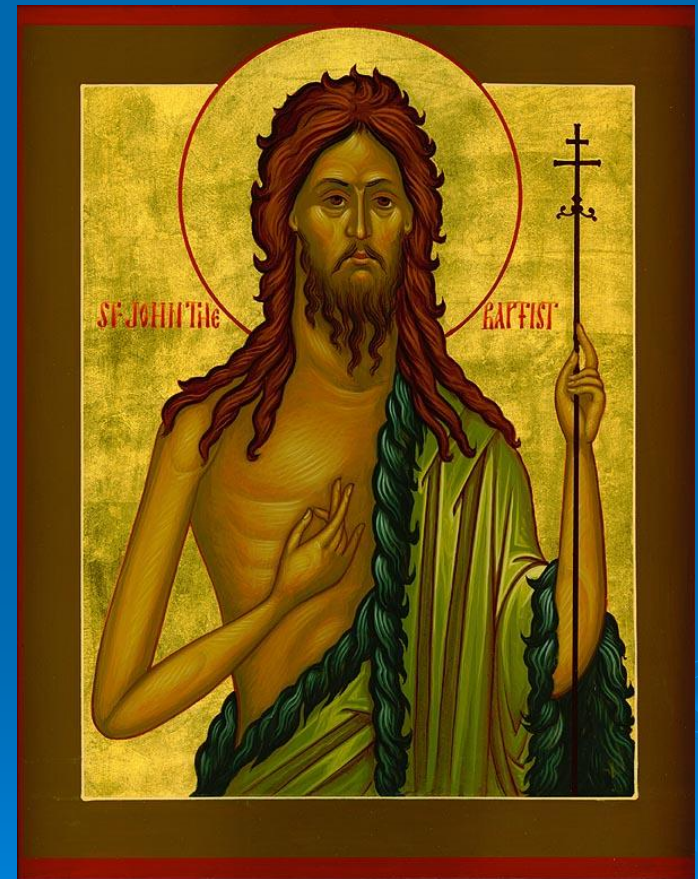
John 3:28



3. My joy is in the coming of the groom

- “but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled”

John 3:29



4. He must increase and I must decrease

- “He must increase, but I must decrease”

John 3:30

