

# TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

## “THE HERALD”

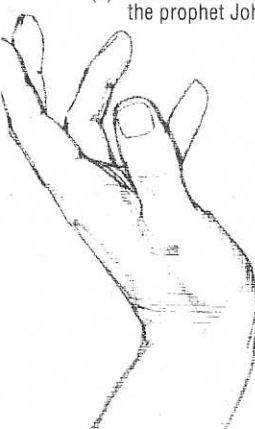
*A study of the life and witness of John the Baptist*

**TUESDAY, MAY 29th, 1990**

*Subject: “When all seems lost”*

*Reading: Matthew 11:1-11*

1. Mistreatment will occur when you are committed to following Christ; count on it! (John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:10-12; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 2:20-21; 3:14).
2. Mistreatment did occur; John was a classic example (Matthew 6:14-20).
3. When all seems lost; the problem of doubt (Matthew 11:1-3):
  - (a) John was depressed by his narrow circumstance.
  - (b) John was disappointed by no sign of his release.
  - (c) John's view of Christ was partial. He preached of a wheat gathering, chaff burning Messiah and the Lord Jesus didn't seem to fit the picture with all his gentle good works.
4. The Lord's answer to John's doubt (verse 4-6)
  - (a) The answer was indirect; it answered John's heart as well as John's intellect.
  - (b) The answer was mysterious; it was the divine husbandman pruning his vine for the best results.
  - (c) The answer was sufficient; he sent John back to the Scriptures.
  - (d) The answer gave what has become the forgotten beatitude; “Blessed is he who is not offended because of me”.
5. The Lord's assessment of John (verse 7-11):
  - (a) The timing of his assessment; heaven does not judge by a passing mood (verse 7).
  - (b) His summary of John's characteristics; John's independence (verse 7), his simplicity (verse 8), his noble office (verse 10).
  - (c) His reservation; the least instructed in the kingdom of heaven is privileged to see and hear the things that the prophet John waited and longed for.



*“During Hitler's blitzing of London with his air force children were evacuated to the English countryside for safety. Somebody asked one little boy, ‘Where are you going?’ He answered, ‘I don't know, but the King knows.”*

