

He said: **"I am**

'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Make straight the way of the Lord,"

as the prophet Isaiah said." John 1:23 NKJV

Have you ever considered John the Baptist's life and ministry? When asked who he was by those sent from Jerusalem, he responded with the above Scripture. He remained true to his calling, even though later on his faith may have waivered.

There were no miracles performed by him, but thousands came to hear him preach and responded to his message of a baptism of repentance as he prepared people to receive the Messiah. The sense of destiny on his life is very evident, of his being "sent by God," as he was even in a remote location.

He knew his calling from the Word, from God Himself. Later he said, *"He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'" (John 1:33).* God "sent him" and God "said to him."

He knew the Word of God and the voice of God and he obeyed Him. And he got the highest privilege of baptising Jesus and witnessing the Holy Spirit come on Him. He recognised the *"Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).* The long awaited Messiah who would save His people from their sins was revealed to him!

The prophecies of Scripture were fulfilled. (See Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1)

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God? How does it apply to you?
- 2) Do you know what God has called you to do with Jesus?
- 3) Are you obeying His calling?

Based on today's reading, what is one thing God is saying to you?