

Weekday Reflection for Thursday, June 24, 2021 – John the Baptist
Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 141 Luke 1:57-67 [68-80] Acts 13:13-26

13Then Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem; 14but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. 15After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it." 16So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

"You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. 17The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. 18For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. 19After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance 20for about four hundred fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. 21Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. 22When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.' 23Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised; 24before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25And as John was finishing his work, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.'

26My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.



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For reflection:

Paul responds with a succinct salvation history when asked to give a word of exhortation. How might you respond to such a request?

Paul says that God describes David as “a man after my own heart.” What qualities in a person capture your heart? How similar do you suppose those attributes are to those that capture God’s own heart?

Prayer:

God our Savior, you seek us out and ask us to bend our hearts to your own. By your Spirit may we love what you love and train our hearts to serve as you served. Amen.