

John the Baptist

John comes on to stage eating honey out of jar with spoon.

John: Hello, I'm John, soon to be known as John the Baptist. Just to clarify, I'm not the Messiah, I'm not Elijah and I'm not the Prophet. Me? The Messiah! Don't make me laugh! I'm not worthy to carry his sandals! But I've come to say "Prepare a road for the Lord, make a straight path for him to travel! Turn away from your sins because the kingdom of heaven is near". [*pointing to Person1*] You! Come here! [*Person1 comes up on stage*] I made this while I was in the desert – [*get egg timer out of pocket*] – That's how long you've got to repent of all your sins.

[Frantic praying from Person1 on knees].

Person1: Finished!

[John squirts them with water pistol].

Person1: What was that for?!

John: That's baptism by water straight from the River Jordan, a sign that you've repented. You're done. Who's next?

[Person2 walks on stage.]

John: What do you want?

Person2: I've come to be baptized!

John: Oh you have, have you? And what makes you think you should be baptized? And don't bother telling me you're a descendant of Abraham. God could make descendants of Abraham from stones if he wanted! It doesn't make you special enough to get away with continued hypocrisy, you Pharisee! I'm not going to baptise you because there's no evidence in your life that you have truly repented. First turn away from your sins, then I can baptize you, then you can escape God's punishment, not before. Go on, hop it!

[exit Person2 – John points and beckons to Person3]

John: You! Your turn! Have you been keeping short accounts with God? I hope so cause you've got one minute to repent from the lot and recommit to following the Lord!

More frantic praying. Squirt.

Person3: Oh, thank you ever so much! [*Returns to seat*]

John: [*addressing congregation*] You think this is serious! The one that comes after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He's going to sort the wheat from the chaff, and I know what I'd rather be! So how about it? Who else is ready for the first baptism? Water straight from the River Jordan!