

Are You Ready?

A Starlight Story by Catherine MacDonald.

Catherine is a writer, a gardener, a photographer who seeks God's presence in the world. A Past President of Maritime Conference, Catherine presently serves as an Intentional Interim Minister at Stairs Memorial United Church, Dartmouth NS, She blogs at <https://mywindowongodsworld.com/> Catherine writes as a childhood friend of John the Baptist.



I knew John when we were children. We were inseparable for years. He was the son of a priest and you know how people expect great things from the sons of priests.

I heard that he studied scripture and was all set to follow in his father's footsteps and take his rightful place in the temple.

And then I heard nothing more of him, except that his father was embarrassed when John went into the wilderness.

The wilderness is where you went if you were stirring up a new agenda.

Was it true what I was hearing about him?
That he wore strange clothing and ate weird food?

And what was this message of repentance I was hearing about?

*"I am an old woman now... and I lived to see Jesus... always coming,
always calling us deeper into the realm of God,
a way opening by the mystery of fire and spirit."*

I'm not sure what drew *me* there, to the wilderness to look for John?
I wanted to see my childhood friend.
I wanted to hear for myself.

Well, some of the things I had heard about him were true....
He did look a little crazed... he had fire in his soul and stars in his eyes...
he looked right at you and you couldn't look away...
he was calling people to change their ways.
Now ...because the the beloved community was at hand...

My friend John saw himself a messenger from God. No wonder people thought he was crazy!

But John was also charismatic... if he wasn't, people wouldn't have listened to him for more than five minutes... but the crowds kept on getting larger... And the crowds wanted to be baptized by him, water-drenched with new intention.

You could see his religious upbringing when he quoted the prophet Isaiah:
“This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
‘The voice of one crying out, In the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

He said more than that... he told them to get ready because there was someone more powerful than he coming... someone who would baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit...

The words disturbed me... yet compelled.

I am an old woman now... and I lived to see Jesus... always coming,
always calling us deeper into the realm of God,
a way opening by the mystery of fire and spirit.

So my friends, starlight blessings on you as you prepare to celebrate the birth.

Are you ready?
Is your heart prepared?

Catherine offers her story for your use, with attribution. She also loves to hear where it is used! Email: reverendcatherinemacdonald@gmail.com