

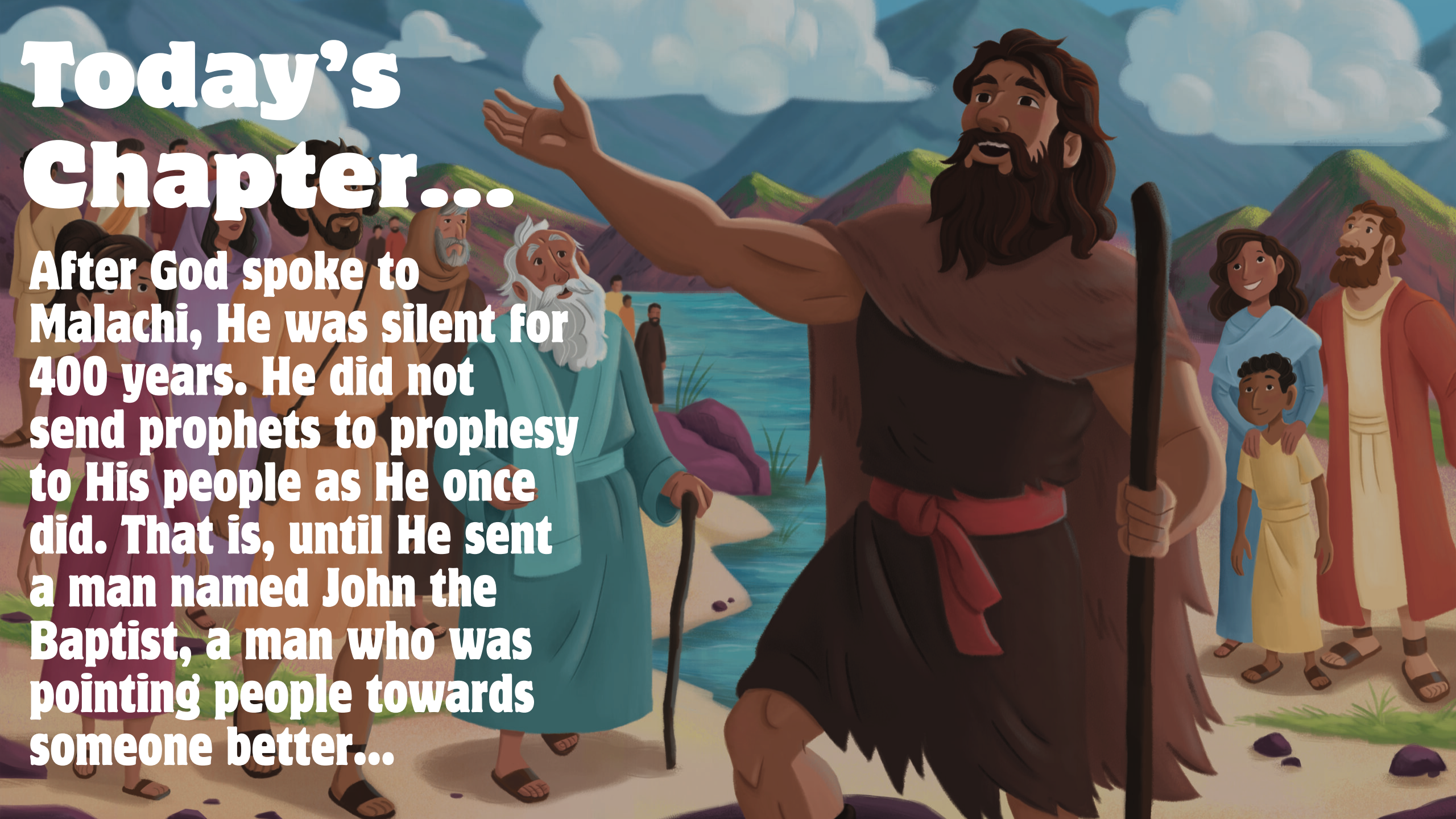


THE BIG STORY CHAPTER 18/25

John The Baptist:
The Silence Breaks

Today's Chapter...

After God spoke to Malachi, He was silent for 400 years. He did not send prophets to prophesy to His people as He once did. That is, until He sent a man named John the Baptist, a man who was pointing people towards someone better...



Today's Scripture:

Matthew 3:4-11

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.



The Story: John the Baptist

- God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus.**
- While He was preaching, people who only pretended to love God came to judge him. He warned them to change!**
- They were only interested in what other people saw, but not who they actually were on the inside.**
- John preached that when Jesus came, it wouldn't matter who your parents were or how "good" you looked on the outside – what would matter is if you repent and believe in the Christ!**

Why it Matters in the Big Story

- When we rebel against God and turn our back on Him, it becomes harder to hear what He has to say.**
- So, we try to make up for it by being “good” on the outside, all the while living however we want in secret.**
- God’s ultimate desire is to transform all people on the inside first and foremost!**



GOD IS...

**God is omniscience.
That means that God
knows everything.
Even when we try to
hide something in our
heart, God knows it! He
loves us, so He uses His
knowledge to
transform us!**

Reflection Questions

1. **Who did God send to prepare the way for Jesus?**
John the Baptist.
2. **Why did John dislike the Pharisees and Sadducees?**
They cared only about what others thought of them.
3. **What does it mean that God is omniscient?**
It means that God is all-knowing!

Challenge Question: How will you invite God into your heart this week?