

## John Dominic Crossan Comparing John the Baptist with Jesus of Nazareth

<p><b>John the Baptist</b></p>	<p>John baptized Jesus and "went before" him (Mk 1:2; see also John 1:15,30); i.e., <b>John was the mentor/teacher of Jesus</b></p> <p>John ran a <b>monopoly: he was the only one to preach and baptize; people had to come to him</b></p>	<p>Metaphor for John's way of life: "<b>fasting</b>," in preparation for the <b>imminent future arrival of the Kingdom of God</b> (Mt 11:16-19; Lk 7:31-35)</p>	<p><b>"apocalyptic eschatology"</b></p> <p>from "apocalypse" = lit. "uncovering, unveiling, revelation"; "eschatology" = lit. "talk about end times, end things"</p>	<p><b>The Kingdom of God is coming in the future, very soon</b></p>	<p><b>We are waiting for God to act, soon</b></p>	<p><b>We expect God to eradicate evil and injustice by means of violence</b></p>
<p><b>Jesus of Nazareth</b></p>	<p>Jesus was baptized by John and "came behind" him (Mk 1:6); i.e., <b>Jesus began as a follower of John</b></p> <p>Jesus organized a <b>franchise operation in which anyone could be commissioned to go forth to preach, heal, eat with anyone!</b></p>	<p>Metaphor for Jesus' way of life: "<b>feasting</b>," to celebrate that the <b>Kingdom is already here, now</b></p>	<p><b>"sapiential eschatology"</b> aka "wisdom eschatology"</p> <p>(elsewhere Crossan explains "eschatology" more simply as "world negation"—the conviction that the world is fundamentally flawed and needs to be put right. But by whom? And how?)</p>	<p><b>The Kingdom of God is here and now</b></p>	<p><b>God is waiting for us to act, now</b></p>	<p><b>God expects us to confront evil and injustice non-violently</b></p>