

A Man Sent From God

John 1.6-8, 15

When you think of the great characters in the Bible, do you ever think of John the Baptist? And yet Jesus said, *I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist* (Mk. 11.11)! What can we emulate from this ‘man sent from God’?

- John answered God’s call: God sent, John went
 - “*There came a man sent from God...*”
 - “*He came as a witness...*”
- John exalted Christ in his life and words
 - “*He has a higher rank than I...*”
 - “*He must increase, but I must decrease.*” (Jn. 3.30)
- John invited people to believe in Jesus Christ
 - “*...that all might believe through him.*”
 - “*Behold, the Lamb of God...*” (Jn. 1.29)

here am i.
send me.



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1. John the Baptist is one of the most fascinating characters in the New Testament. At the height of his fame, he was a ‘rock star’ followed by thousands, and God’s plan for him is reflected in events before he was even conceived. To get the ‘back-story’ of God’s unique call on his life, read Luke 1. For an account of his rise to fame and his first encounter with Jesus, read Matthew 3. What stands out to you in his parents? What drew people to him?
2. One intriguing part of John the Baptist’s story is how he fulfills Old Testament prophecy. The prophet Malachi predicted a “messenger” who would ‘prepare the way’ for the Lord (3.1). He even identified him as Elijah (4.5-6). Because there had been no prophetic voice in Israel for 400 years, when John came, people wondered if he might be the promised Elijah (see John 1.21, 25 for his answer to them). In Matthew 11.7-15, Jesus speaks about John. Why do you think Jesus said what He did in Matt. 11.14? How, or under what circumstances, could John have been “Elijah who was to come”? Note: To this day, Jews set out an extra chair, and cup of wine on the table, when they celebrate Passover, and even open the door, awaiting the arrival of Elijah, signaling that the Messiah has come to earth!
3. In John 1.6, we read that John was “sent from God.” While John is certainly unique in his role, is there a way that all Christians today are ‘sent from God’? See Matt. 28.18-20 and Mark 16.15.
4. What did John come to do (John 1.7)? What was the purpose in him doing this? Does this same function and purpose apply to Christians today? See Acts 1.8.
5. It’s interesting to reflect on the way John refers to Jesus and John in the first chapter of his Gospel. Jesus is “the Word” (*Logos*); John is “a voice” (*phōnē*; 1.23). As the *Logos*, Jesus is the One who reveals God to man (see John 1.18). How does John’s “voice” fit into God revealing Himself through Christ? John exalts Christ at every point (see John 1.15; 3.30). Do your words and actions exalt Jesus Christ in the eyes of the world? See 1 Peter 2.19-25.