

John the Baptizer's Message

John 1:6-9, 19-27

Introduction: The Gospel is good news. It's the contrast of a world filled with selfishness, sin, and hurt. John was sent to prepare the world for the best news ever given. His unique personality and message led people to Jesus.

What makes a person great? 100 Important People of Millennium "Life Magazine"

#1 Thomas Edison, #2 Columbus

18 scientists, 17 politicians and national leaders, 10 military conquerors, 10 inventors, 7 philosophers, 7 explorers, 7 writers, 5 artists, 4 theologians, 4 composers, 2 Entertainers (PT Barnum, Disney)

What makes a person great? God's view: 1 Sam. 16:7 The Lord looks at the heart

1 Cor. 1:26 Not many of you were wise by human standards, influential, noble birth, but God chose the foolish things, the weak things that the world might be shamed.

Matthew 11:11 I tell you the truth, among those born of women, there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist.

I. His Unique Lifestyle

A. Not caught up in worldly events.

Not caught up in drama: was he a Nazarite (Numbers 6)? Essene?

Don't see political or social views.

He was caught up in God's work. That was his focus.

B. Looked like prophets of the past

1 Kings 17 Elijah appeared suddenly to Ahab, challenged prophets

2 Kings 1 King sent servants to Baal prophets, find a hairy man: what was he dressed like? O that's Elijah.

Isaiah 40 A voice of one calling in the desert, prepare for the coming of the Lord, make straight paths for him.

Malachi 3:1 (4:5-6) I will send my messenger who will prepare the way for me. Then suddenly you will see the Lord.

C. Lived very simply

Luke 1:80 grew up in wilderness (parents were very old at birth)

Mt. 3:4-6 Camel hair garment and ate wild locust and honey

D. We have a unique lifestyle

Rom 12:1, Lk 9:23, 1 Cor 10:23 All things lawful/not all beneficial.

II. His Unique Message

A. Sermon with Power

No miracles, no eloquence Word for preach: Kerux. Heralding

Matthew 11:17 not a reed swayed by the wind.

Wanted a message of prosperity, of anti-Rome

2 Tim 3 People seek an ear tickling preacher.

His message is one of urgency.

B. Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near, Mt 3:2

Not a message heard today.

Meaning of repentance: U Turn

Begins with sorrow for sin, not because caught, offended holy God

Change way of thinking/way of living

His message

Pharisees/ Sadducees Mt. 3:7-10 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, **9** and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

People: Luke 3 People ask what shall we do? If you have two coats, give one away.

Tax collectors: collect no more than appointed to,

Romans: don't intimidate others and be content with wages.

Herod Mt. 14:3-4 Herod married brother's wife: not lawful for you to have her...this will kill him

C. Judgment

Isaiah 40:3-5 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low;** The crooked places shall be made straight And the **rough places smooth;** **5** The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see *it* together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

(High mountains of pride, low valleys of worthlessness)

Mt. 3:10 axe is at root of the tree. Bear fruit of repentance.

III. His Unique Purpose: Pointing To Jesus

A. Lamb of God

John 1:29 Point to Jesus.

B. Not Worthy of Him

Baptism of repentance....gentiles to Jews. You need change completely

C. He must become greater, I must become less

Luke 1 Gabriel to Zechariah and Elisabeth: He will be great in the eyes of the Lord.

John 3:30 he must become greater, I must become less.