

John the Baptist

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

- A. John was called the greatest man in the world by Jesus. (Luke 7:28)
- B. The key to John's greatness was that he wanted Jesus to become greater. (John 3:29, Luke 1, Luke 16:16)

II. Background.

- A. John was unique because he marked the beginning of the new era and the end of the old.
- B. He was filled with the Holy Spirit when he was young.
- C. He was commissioned to bring repentance to people and turn them back to turn people to the wisdom of the just.

III. The importance of the Word of God.

- A. John's father was a learned man, but he did not believe in the Word of God - by cause and effect his words were taken away.
- B. Mary was also troubled at the Word of God from Gabriel, but she took God at His Word.
- C. God uses the Word throughout the Bible and we are called to believe it.

IV. John's ministry was meant to redirect attention to Jesus - the greatest man that ever lives was lowly and humble. (John 1:6, Luke 7)

Application questions

1. What was the (ironic) chief characteristic of John that set him apart as the world's greatest?

2. How does the birth narratives of Jesus and John demonstrate the importance of trusting God's Word?

3. What importance does humility have in your life? Memorize John 3:30 and write it below.
