

John the Baptist

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

- A. John was the greatest man in the world. (Luke 7:28)
- B. The key to John's greatness was that he wanted Jesus to become greater. (John 3:29-30)

II. John's mission. (Luke 1:17)

- A. He was commissioned to bring repentance to people.
- B. John set out to bring children back to their parents and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just.
- C. He was an advocate for sweeping change.

III. The importance of the Word of God. (Luke 1)

- A. John's father was a learned man, but he did not believe in the Word of God.
 - 1. God is the Sabbath - He is the Messiah.
 - 2. Tithing is not commanded in the New Testament because all of our money belongs to God.
 - 3. Do what the Bible teaches not what people do in it necessarily (e.g. the example of David killing Uriah).
 - 4. What the Bible teaches. (1 Corinthians 8)
 - a. It teaches knowledge about God and knowledge about self.
 - b. All other knowledge puffs up.
 - c. Some things are harder to get verses on to support one's theology—stick to what you must in your culture for the objective of the mission and nothing else.
- B. Mary was also troubled at the Word of God from Gabriel, but she took God at His Word.
 - 1. Mary and Elizabeth gave themselves to the Word.
 - 2. They also encouraged each other.
- C. Zechariah pleaded for the restoration of old paths . (Psalm 106:10, Genesis, Micah, Jeremiah 6:16)

IV. John's ministry. (John 1:6, 3:23, Luke 7:19, Luke 3:2)

A. Sometimes it is important for people to spend time “in the desert” to increase a person’s ability to witness. (1 Timothy 3:13, Acts 6)

B. John’s ministry was for conversion - we are called to quit sinning.

C. We can add to sin. (1 Thessalonians 2:16, John 19:11, Matthew 12.40, Romans 2:5-6, Isaiah 30:1)

D. John’s ministry fundamentally marked by humility. (Luke 7:24, Luke 6:20)

Application questions

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

2. How do 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.
