

## Not Me, But Him

"Learning Jesus" (The Gospel of John)

John 1:6-8

**January 20, 2019**

### BIG IDEA

John the Baptist came with great purpose and was sent by God to point to Jesus. He was an incredibly important person, but he didn't come as the solution to the world's problems. He came to pave the way for the Savior and he did so by giving his entire life to draw attention to Christ.

### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

#### *Context:*

Following John's assertion that Jesus is eternal and is God ([John 1:1-2](#)) and after the disciple gets more specific about the work of Christ in creation ([John 1:3-5](#)), John now shows us the one that would prepare the way of the Lord.

### John 1:6-8

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

### DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

#### 1. Sent From God

**John 1:6** – *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

John understood that he was sent, and he stayed connected to that type of commitment to why he was sent, as well. He was sent with a purpose and he knew it and lived like it.

The mission that John was sent to accomplish came in the form of two big tasks:

- *Preparing the way of the Lord* – The leading edge of all that John was about was announcing the coming Messiah, His kingship and the Kingdom He came to establish.
- *Calling people to repentance through baptism* – This baptism of repentance was John's mode to awaken people to their need for a Savior and was his way of preparing them for the event of Jesus' coming.

**a. John was clearly called to very specific things. Have you, or someone you know personally, ever responded to something you know God called you to do?**

**b. Do you think it is harder or easier to respond to God's promptings in our lives since we have many examples in scripture of people doing just that? Why or why not?**

## **2. Bear Witness**

*John 1:7 – He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.*

Being a witness means "giving accurate information about something that a person has direct knowledge about." John uses the word "witness" some 33 times in his Gospel which shows us how critical of a theme being a witness is for John.

To witness of who Jesus is and what He's done very many times carried a severity and danger to it, and this is how the way we use the word martyr got transliterated in English. People's lives were at stake to anchor themselves and their faith to Jesus.

**a. Is it surprising to you that the concept of "bearing witness" is such a major theme in John's gospel?**



- b. Where in your life do you find it easier to be a witness and where do you find it harder to be one? For areas in which you find it hard, what steps could you take to continue to become more of a witness for Christ?**

### **3. Not The Light**

*John 1:8 – He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

We must be careful to not think more highly of ourselves. We are pointers to the light. We aren't generators of the light...we are reflectors, passing on what we have been given, what we have received. For John the Baptist, his desire to point to another was the crowning story of his life. And it should be for us, as well.

*John 3:30 – “He must increase, but I must decrease.”*

- a. Being humble and deferring to others can be really difficult. Can you share an example of how remaining humble was difficult?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Is there a part of your life in which you are struggling to give away control and use it to point to Christ?**

### **4. That All Might Believe**

Believing in Christ is not just a knowing, but a knowing with conviction that something is true and trusting in it. For Israel to be confronted with their need for a Savior by John, and then for many of them to step forward in repentance of sins, it was those people that were believers. They were receiving the truth that Jesus is the only way to salvation and then trusting in it with faith!



a. **Trusting in God with conviction is not easy. When are the times you struggle to trust God the most?**

b. **How might God be growing your trust in Him right now?**

#### PRAY

Lord, we need a transforming vision of the light! Help us to see and enjoy the light in a way that changes us and provokes us to point our lives toward Jesus. We aren't the point. Christ is the point! Help us to find our heart's rest in this place of pointing to you. We know that is where true joy is found! May you increase! Amen.

#### DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [\*Ordinary: How to Turn the World Upside Down\*](#) – a book from Tony Merida
- [\*Humility: True Greatness\*](#) – a book from C. J. Mahaney

#### NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Learning Jesus: Incarnation in Order to Observe God's Redemptive Work/Explanation of Savior by John the Baptist (John 1:9-31)

