



**THAT'S NOT
ME**

S E R M O N G U I D E

No Limits with Pastor Delman

That's Not Me

John 1:19-21

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world where people feel the pressure to act like they have more going on in their life than they really do, and to pretend that they are something they are not. However, as followers of Jesus, we're called to live differently. In today's key passage, John teaches us that we all must have the capacity within ourselves to resist inauthenticity by knowing who and what we are not.

KEY POINTS

1. Be Real About Who You Are And Who You Are Not

When I meditated over today's key text, I was struck by the fact that John could have easily bought into the hype and the public perception of who he was. I mean, for the Jews to send representatives to check him out means that his influence must have been really growing. His brand and reputation spreading, and he could have easily said, "Yeah, that's me. I'm that guy."

He could have done what those social media influencers did. He could have embellished his profile. But rather than having an inflated sense of self, John said "No, that's not me." How many of us are in touch with ourselves enough and are self-aware enough to let people know, "That's not me"? If we want to follow the biblical example of authenticity, then we need to be real and honest about who we are and who we are not.

2. Know How To Answer The Question "Who Are You?"

Who we are should not be reducible to or associated with the external trappings that this life has to offer. "Who are you?" is a question about the interior life, about one's inner essence. And yet sadly, many make the mistake of thinking that who they are is defined by what they do or what they have. They equate their profession, their position, and their possessions with who they are as a person.

The problem with defining yourself by those things is that they don't last forever, and so when those things are gone, who are you then? Who are you without the car, the job, the spouse, the degree, or the position? That's what you do. That's not who you are. Instead, when you have a deep appreciation and understanding of who you are, and you are comfortable in your skin, you are okay with who you are not. Then you will be able to know how to answer when someone asks "Who are you?"

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3. Don't Sacrifice Your Authenticity To Fit In

John is a role model for us because had he tried to fit who they thought he was, maybe he would have been chosen later on by Jesus to be a disciple. Think about that. As great and significant as John the Baptist was, he was never chosen to be a part of the 12 disciples. Who wouldn't want to be in that circle? I wonder if the thought ever occurred to John that if he embellished his credentials, maybe he'd be chosen by Jesus to be one of the boys. But John says "No, that's not me," because he knew that sacrificing his authenticity wasn't worth being included in the group. He understood that it was more important for him to not let the need for belonging take precedence over his need to just be himself and live out the life God had chosen for Him. What an incredible example he sets for us with this decision.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Do you find it easy to “be yourself”? Or do you struggle to try to be someone you’re not?
2. How would you define “authenticity” in your own words?
3. When was a time you chose authenticity over fitting in? What about the other way around? What did you learn from these differing situations?
