

John 1:6-9, 19-34

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God...

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

³² Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

+ LUKE 3:3-9

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

12/15 – GIVING TREE (LAST DAY) & ANNUAL MEETING

12/20 – CHRISTMAS UNDER THE STARS



The Herald

John 1:6-9, 19-34; Luke 3:3-9

12/08/2019

THE HERALD

Definition:

1. An official **messenger** bringing news.
2. A person or thing viewed as a **sign** that something is about to happen.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

John is a verification used by God to point out Jesus Christ's authenticity as **Messiah**.

John **rallied** the people **preparing** them for Jesus' arrival and ministry.

John points to Christ's **deity** and **royalty**.

John was about repentance and true **devotion** to God.

John points to Christ as Savior of the world, God's justice for sin, poured out on God Himself, **for your sake**.

HOW TO RESPOND

John gives us **confidence** in our belief in Jesus. He is one of God's **proofs**.

John is an icon for **whole-life** devotion to God

See Jesus as the one "whose sandals I am not worthy to untie", God's Chosen One, and **believe** in Him and **follow** Him.



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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the [MTC App](#), or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](#).

GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?**

DIGGING DEEPER

2. **Why do you think God chose to send John the Baptist as a "herald" before Jesus?**

3. **What can we learn from John's life and message or how does the life and message of John the Baptist impact you?**

GETTING PERSONAL

4. In today's message, repentance was defined as "a change of mind that results in a change of action. **Why is repentance, being a change of mind and not just a change in action, important? Why is the practice of repentance an important part of devoting yourself to Jesus?**

5. John points to Jesus Christ as Savior of the world, God's justice for sin, poured out on God Himself, **for your sake**. We call this grace and it is the good news of the Bible we sometimes call the "Gospel". **How do you understand God's love for you in light of that? How can a deeper understanding of His love for you inform your trust and confidence in Him?**

BRINGING IT HOME

6. Last week we talked about God being more than we give Him credit for and being bigger than we allow ourselves to trust and imagine. This week, at the end of the message, we said that we should see Jesus as the one "whose sandals I am not worthy to untie" and believe in Jesus and follow Him. **Has your view of Jesus been growing? Do you think you put Jesus in "too small of a box"?**

Why is a bigger view of Jesus important to trusting and following Him?

7. **Take home devotional challenge:** spend time in prayer and in God's word this week, specifically looking to get bigger view of who God is. Ask God to help grow your understanding of Him and your trust in Him. Feel free to do it collaboratively, with a friend or others from your Growth Group. If you're not sure where to read, there's lots of great places, but any of the four Gospels are great places to start: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I personally love Luke for Christmas time reading. - Dominic

PRAY TOGETHER