

John The Baptist!

The Greatest!

1.21.24

Matt 11:11 <sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one greater than John the Baptist has appeared,<sup>[a]</sup> but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

I. Who was John?

Mark 1:1-11 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:<sup>[b]</sup>

**See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.**<sup>[c][d]</sup>

**<sup>3</sup> A voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight!**<sup>[e]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> John came baptizing<sup>[f]</sup> in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> John wore a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, “One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with<sup>[g]</sup> water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. <sup>10</sup> As soon as he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased.”

He was called the baptizer.

He was around 29-30 years old

He was predicted to come introduce Jesus.

He was the first person to speak after 400 years of silence.

He lived a modest life.

He was a cousin of Jesus.

He was born to aged parents who were not supposed to have kids.

He was a way preparer.

He reluctantly baptized Jesus.

Matt 3:13-15 When Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John allowed him to be baptized.

II. What made him the greatest? (The content of his greatness)

A. He was humble.

Mark 1:7 He proclaimed, "One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals.

B. He was obedient.

Matt 3:13-15 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John allowed him to be baptized.

C. He was unashamed.

To confront religious hypocrisy.

Luke 3:7 He then said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

To tell the truth

Luke 3:13 He told them, "Don't collect any more than what you have been authorized.", 14 Some soldiers also questioned him, "What should we do?"

He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

To offer hope to all people.

Luke 3:6 **and everyone will see the salvation of God.**

To talk about the "other side" of eternity without Jesus.

Luke 3:7 He then said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

To confront ungodly rulers.

Matt 14:1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus. <sup>2</sup> "This is John the Baptist," he told his servants. "He has been raised from the dead, and that's why miraculous powers are at work in him."

<sup>3</sup> For Herod had arrested John, chained<sup>[a]</sup> him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, <sup>4</sup> since John had been telling him, "It's not lawful for you to have her."

To present Jesus as the only way to the Father.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

(There were positive results from his boldness)

He created curiosity.

Mark 1: <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

He created hope.

D. He was human.

Matt 11: <sup>2</sup>Now when John heard in prison what the Christ was doing, he sent a message through his disciples <sup>3</sup>and asked him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>4</sup>Jesus replied to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy<sup>[a]</sup> are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news,

III. Take ways for us as believers.

Are we truly humbled by the grace of Jesus?

Are we being bold?

Are we relying solely on Jesus to get us to heaven?

Are we spreading the message of hope?

Are we suffering in any area of our lives because we are followers of Jesus?

Close: To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge! To do the will of God is the greatest achievement.

George W Truett