

Sermon Notes

“The Deferral of the Baptist”
John 1:6-8, 15, 19-34; 3:22-30
May 8, 2016

7. Read John 3:22-30. In 3:30 the Baptist says, “He must become greater; I must become less.” According to 3:22-26, why was this necessary?

8. How would you feel if a friend received more recognition than you for something you both did?

9. Does the Baptist’s attitude toward himself and his own ministry, and toward Jesus and His ministry, suggest any example for you to follow? Do your actions reflect 3:30? Pray about how you can grow in this area.

Introduction:

1. The Messenger

2. The Message

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Jeff and Teri Sprecher – Mission Impact – Guatemala

Pray for the Sprecher family as they minister to the people of Guatemala, and coordinate the many teams that come to help build schools and work in the medical field.

Conclusion:

4. What did the Baptist testify about Jesus? Record as many observations as you can find.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 5-08-16

Questions adapted from Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., John: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 31-35, 54-55; Douglas Connelly, John: The Way to True Life, Intersity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, p. 17; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 158-161.

Getting Started:

1. Why do people enjoy boasting about themselves and their accomplishments?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read John 1:6-8, 15, 19-34. Who or what did the Baptist say he was? How did he describe himself?
3. The noun "witness" (1:7) or "testimony" occurs fourteen times in this Gospel, and the verb "to witness" or "to testify" occurs thirty-three times. In both cases, this is more often than in any other New Testament book. What does this repetition say about the author's focus in this book?

5. How would you describe John the Baptist's mission in your own words? If you had been John how would you have felt about your role?

6. After predicting that the nation of Israel would be overrun and survivors exiled, Isaiah also predicted that God would bring a remnant of those exiles back to the land to rebuild Jerusalem and the nation. Read the context (Isa. 40:1-11) of the verse which the Baptist quoted in John 1:23. The Old Testament prophet is calling for a (metaphorical) improvement in the road system of the desert to the east, a leveling of hills and valleys and a straightening of the curves, to accommodate the return of the covenant people from exile led by their God. Both Isaiah and John use this analogy to speak of personal preparation in anticipation of the Lord's arrival.

How are you called to prepare for the Lord's coming? How are you doing this? How can you improve in this area?