



**None Greater
Than John!
Matthew 7:7-11**

**Picture a preacher
standing on the
prolific Jordan river**

- ➔ **There is a
multitude of
people there,
and he is calling
on them to
repent!**



They decline, saying that they are already God's people, their father was Abraham, they were his descendants and worshipped regularly.

- **But the preacher says that they cannot rely on their father's religion, but must have their own relationship with God**
- **Then the preacher begins to name off their personal sins, and the people begin to see themselves and where they stood before God, and they begin to repent!**



Observations

- There had been preachers before John, and there have been many preachers since John, but Jesus said that there was None Greater Than John!
- Here was a preacher that could challenge the sinner
- Here was a preacher that could challenge the child of God
- Here was a man that could make the children of God look in the mirror at themselves and come to a realization of guilt before God

He could compel people to say, “I’m sorry!” and mean it! and repent!



**Did You Know That Church
Members Represent a Preacher's
Effectiveness? 2 Corinthians 3:2**

*“Are we beginning to commend ourselves
again? Or do we need, like some people,
letters of recommendation to you or
from you?”*

*You yourselves are our letter, written on our
hearts, known and read by everybody.”*

*The Proof Of My Preaching Is What You Do
About It!*



Luke Chapter 1 Gives Us Some Intimate Details Of John's Background

- Zacharias, his father was a priest; His mother's name was Elizabeth
- They were righteous people and kept all the laws of God
- The one sorrow in their lives (fly in the ointment) was that they were both old and God had never blessed them with a child
- But we get no indication in God's word that they complained about it (*the Lord isn't treating us right*)
- They kept on following God in faith



They Weren't Like Us

- *“Why doesn't God do more for me?”*
- *“I give of my means.” “I go to church.”*

That Is The Wrong Spirit!

- **If He fills our hands with blessings, we are to serve Him with the best that we have**
- **If those hands are empty, we still serve Him with the best we have**

God Is Still Worthy!

- One of the devil's beliefs about our faith, is that it is dependent on Sunshine
- Remember the Devil's comment to God about Job's faith, *"God, If you remove your blessings from around him, he will curse you to your face!"*
- Remember in the midst of Job's calamities, his wife asked him, *"Do you still retain your integrity? Just curse God and die!"*
- Job's answer to her was, *"If we are going to serve God when He brings us happiness, shouldn't we serve Him when He allows sadness to come in our lives?"*



Luke 1:8-22

- Zacharias was serving in the Temple one day when an angel appeared to him and told him that he would have a son and that the son would have God's mission on his shoulders
- Zacharias didn't believe him and told the angel that he and his wife were too old (*"ya'll waited to late"*)
- The angel then left him without the ability to speak
- Here is a Preacher who will not now speak God's message in his life (what a testimony he could have)

Sometimes God's People Have To Be "Without" To Understand What It Means To Be "With!"

- Without health-Sometimes we don't look toward heaven until we are lying on our backs (Then we learn to pray)
- Without Wealth-We don't get close to God until we go broke
- Without Relationships-We take our husbands and wives for granted until we lose our best friend and best support person, and then we are ready to come to married classes (group counseling) as the last resort

*Remember, One Christian Person Can Save
A Relationship!*




Sometimes :

***Sometimes God's
People Learn Faith
By Living Without What
We Consider Is
Important To Us!***



John's Message Was One Of Repentance!

- Repentance-a genuine Godly sorrow for attitudes and actions contrary to God's love, which makes a person turn from their sinful acts to God
 - More people ought to repent
 - More preachers are needed today who believe and preach that mankind should repent and turn back to God
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Observations

- John the Baptist's crowd began to enlarge
- People began to ask, "*are you the Christ?*"
- He would reply, "*no I'm not, I am just a voice*"
- Another would ask, "*are you the prophet that should come?*"
- He'd say, "*No I'm not.*" "*I must decrease, He will increase.*"
- Now the crowds begin to get smaller for John and larger for Jesus
- Question: Didn't that make him jealous?



Question:

When someone has your gift, can you team up with them?

- Preacher
- Teacher
- Cook
- Song Leader

God is Glorified When You Can Sublimate Yourself to Elevate Him!

That is Christ Growing in Your Heart!

Romans 12:10

Observation

- Don't make a habit of competing with each other in the home. If one does well, you both do
- When Someone gets a new job, more money, a raise, be able to say, *"I am happy for him/her"*
- When someone is praised here in this church family can you praise him/her too?
- John the Baptist was the type of guy that can say, *"I'm happy for him/her"*
- Remember what Jesus said, *"there is none greater than John" but the "least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."*



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Believe the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Repent Of Sins	Acts 17:30
Confess Christ	Acts 8:37
Be Baptized	Acts 8:39