

A Man Sent From God

John 1:6-8

Thought for the Day: John the Baptist is a role model for Christians living in the Last Days before the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ: The most important thing we can do is point people to Jesus Christ (the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world –*John 1:29, 36*).

In John 1:1-5, the Apostle John introduced us to the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, in verses 6-8, he introduces us to a second man who is vital to his Gospel account, John the Baptist. He is referenced 14 times in John's Gospel and is a good role model for us today.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

- "There's no getting around it—John the Baptist was unique. He wore odd clothes and ate strange food and preached an unusual message to the Judeans who went out to the wastelands to see him.
"But John did not aim at uniqueness for its own sake. Instead, he aimed at obedience. He knew he had a specific role to play in the world—announcing the coming of the Savior—and he put all his energies into the task.
"This wild-looking man had no power or position in the Jewish political system, but he spoke with almost irresistible authority. People were moved by his words because he spoke the truth, challenging them to turn from their sins and baptizing them as a symbol of their repentance. They responded by the hundreds. But even as people crowded around him, he pointed beyond himself, never forgetting that his main role was to announce the coming of the Savior.
"God has given each of us a purpose for living, and we can trust him to guide us. John did not have the complete Bible as we know it today, but he focused his life on the truth he knew from the available Old Testament Scriptures. Likewise we can discover in God's Word the truths he wants us to know. And as these truths work in us, others will be drawn to him. God can use you in a way he can use no one else. Let him know your willingness to follow him today." (*Life Application Study Bible, p. 2215*)
- John was the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ, sent by God to prepare the way for the Lord's coming public ministry.
- "Sent" – literally to "send out on a mission." "His mission was to announce the coming of Christ and to tell the people to get ready to receive Him." (*MacDonald, p. 1419*)
 - In the same sense, you and I have been sent on a mission by the Lord. Our mission is virtually identical to that of John. (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - We are to prepare people for the Lord's Coming by sharing the Gospel with them so that they can enter into a saving relationship with Christ, and then teach them the truths of God's Word so that they may grow in their relationship with Him.
 - Our Mission, both as a church and as individuals, is to Glorify God and Advance His Kingdom by Making Disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - John prepared them for His first coming; we prepare them for His second coming.
- John's ministry was prophesied in the Old Testament over 700 years before his birth (Isaiah 40:3-5 – Matthew 3:1-3, Mark 1:2-5, Luke 3:2-6), and again 400 years before his coming (Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5-6 – Matthew 11:7-14; 17:9-13; Mark 9:11-13; Luke 1:5-17).

7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

- John came to point people to the Lord Jesus Christ as the Light of the world so that all people might put their faith and trust in Him.
- John was very effective in his ministry! (Matthew 3:5-6; John 10:41-42)
 - We need to remember that, if anything of eternal significance happens in our ministry, it's because of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Jesus is the Light; we have the privilege of being able to reflect Him to others.
 - "Like John the Baptist, we are not the source of God's light; we merely reflect that light. Jesus Christ is the true Light; he helps us see our way to God and shows us how to walk along that way. But Christ has chosen to reflect his light through his followers to an unbelieving world. . . The word *witness* indicates our role as reflectors of Christ's light. We are never to present ourselves as the light to others, but are always to point them to Christ, the Light." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)
- The words "witness" and "bear witness" are important concepts for John.
 - "Witness" occurs 33 times as a verb and 14 times as a noun.
 - To "bear witness" means "to testify" or "to declare."
 - Throughout his Gospel, John acts like an attorney calling person after person to testify concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - His purpose is that his readers might come to the conclusion "that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing [they] may have life in his name" (John 20:31).
 - "The 'witness' theme in John's Gospel is part of a larger 'trial motif.' This reverses the world's perspective of Jesus being put on trial. It becomes clear that it is really the world, not Jesus, that is on trial, with a multitude of witnesses bearing testimony to his true identity as Messiah." (*CSB Study Bible, p. 1676*)
 - The first witness that the Apostle John calls upon is John the Baptist. (John 1:19-34)
- John the Baptist had quite an impact and there were those who wondered if he might be the promised Messiah.
 - The Apostle John, and John himself, made it very clear that John was not the Messiah; he was sent to bear witness and to point people to the Messiah, and he was careful to diligently fulfill his ministry.
- Another important word and concept for John is the word "believe."
 - The word "believe" means "to trust;" it occurs almost 100 times in his Gospel.
 - John's purpose for writing his Gospel was that people might put their trust in Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Son of God, and that, by doing so, receive God's gift of eternal life.

8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

- John did not seek to attract attention to himself; he pointed people to the Lord.
- If God is pleased to use us and our ministry meets with any degree of success, we, like John, need to humbly remember who and what we are and give all the glory to God! Our greatest satisfaction in life should come from knowing that we have pointed others to Jesus.