

Overview of Study – John 1 – John the Baptist’s Testimony

This lesson centers on one question: “**Who are you?**” John the Baptist is pressured to fit a label—Messiah, Elijah, or “the Prophet.” He refuses every title and stays clear: **he is a voice**, sent to **prepare the way for the Lord**. His ministry of baptism is about **repentance**—getting hearts ready for Jesus. The big takeaway: **don’t follow people, follow Christ**—and live with humility, knowing we are not worthy without God’s grace.

Key Points

- Religious leaders questioned John because his influence was growing.
- John clearly states what he is **not**: **not the Messiah, not Elijah, not the Prophet.**
- John identifies what he **is**: “**a voice**” fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy—preparing the way.
- His baptism = **repentance**, not Christian believer’s baptism (which comes after faith in Jesus).
- John points to Jesus: **Someone is coming who is greater—and already among you.**
- The church must resist being shaped by the world’s expectations.
- **Charisma isn’t the goal**—faithfulness to the message is.
- John’s humility: **not even worthy to untie Jesus’ sandal.**
- Our role today: **be witnesses**—tell what Jesus has done, and point others to Him.

Reflective Questions

1. If someone asked you, “Who are you?” what do you tend to answer with—titles, roles, accomplishments, or calling?
2. Where are you tempted to follow a person more than you follow Jesus?
3. What does “make straight the way of the Lord” look like in your life right now?
4. Is there an area where you need personal repentance—not excuses, not blame, just honesty before God?
5. How do you handle pressure to “fit the mold” or stay quiet about faith?
6. John said he wasn’t worthy. Do you struggle more with **pride** or **shame**—and what would humility look like for you?

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7. Who around you might be asking “why” (why you live differently)? Are you ready to share your hope?

Action Steps

- **One honest prayer today:** “Lord, show me where I need to repent and realign.”
- **Practice one-sentence testimony:**
“Jesus has changed my life by _____, and I’m trusting Him with _____.”
- **Choose Jesus over people:** Identify one voice you’ve elevated too highly (leader, influencer, opinion, even your own feelings) and submit it to Christ.
- **Make the path straight:** Remove one distraction this week that keeps you from hearing God clearly (time, habit, media, negativity).
- **Be a witness on purpose:** Encourage one person this week with a simple faith statement + kindness.

Conclusion

John the Baptist modeled what real spiritual maturity looks like: **clarity, humility, and focus**. He didn’t chase a title, protect his image, or soften truth to please people. He pointed away from himself and toward Jesus. That’s the call for us too—**prepare hearts, tell the truth, follow Christ, and live as witnesses**. God doesn’t need our “worthiness”—He wants our yes.