

The Man John the Baptist

Study of Matthew, Part 7

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon Outline

*John the Baptist was a man
captivated by the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*“Truly I say to you, among those born of women
there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist!”
-- Matthew 11:11*

I. Spirit-Filled

“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb.” --Luke 1:15

- A. Spirit’s empowerment of OT saints = occasional & temporary.(Jud. 14:19)
- B. Spirit’s empowerment of John = continuous from birth.
- C. Spirit’s empowerment of us = continuous from conversion.

- 1. Every believer is indwelt with the Spirit. (Rom. 8:9, 15-16)
- 2. Every believer is commanded to be “filled” with the Spirit. (Eph. 5:17)

II. Self-Forgetful

“He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals. . . “ -- Matthew 3:11

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” – John 3:30

- A. John is captivated by Jesus.
- B. John humbles himself before Jesus.
- C. John sacrifices himself for Jesus.

III. Sold Out

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” –Matthew 3:1

*“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?
But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing?”
--Mt. 11:7-8*

- A. John is faithful.
- B. John is bold.
- C. John is free.

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Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Thinking back on last week, what is the meaning of John the Baptist? In other words, who or what was he? How does that relate to who we are?
2. When we talk about “The Man John the Baptist” what are asking?
2. How did the Holy Spirit empower Old Testament saints? Look at Judges 14:19. Based on Luke 1:15, what is so different about John the Baptist?
3. How does the Spirit empower the believer’s life? Occasionally or continuously? When is a believer “indwelt” with the Spirit? (Rom. 8:9, 15-16) Is this a second or special blessing?
4. Read Eph. 5:17. What does it mean to be “filled” with the Holy Spirit? Is this something God does or something we participate in? What are some other ways the Bible talks about this? Is this mystical or mysterious? How are we filled with Holy Spirit?
5. How does being Spirit-filled lead to self-forgetfulness? How does the one lead to the other? How was John self-forgetful? What does it look like for us to be self-forgetful today? Who do you know who possesses this quality?
6. How does being Spirit-filled lead to being sold out? How was John sold out? What does it look like for us to be sold-out for Jesus today? Who do you know who is?
7. How do humility (self-forgetfulness) and boldness (being sold out) seem like paradoxical qualities? Why does the gospel produce these seemingly contrasting qualities in us?
8. How do we become more self-forgetful? How do we become more sold out?
9. How did the preaching of God’s Word affect your taking of God’s table on Sunday? How did you relate the two?