

# LIVING A GREAT LIFE

John 1:19-34, 3:22-30

## I. JOHN KNEW WHO HE WAS

Verses 6-7

- A man sent from God
- A witness to the light

Verse 23

- “I am the voice of one calling in the desert”

"A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD ; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."" Isa 40:3-5 (NIV)

Verses 24-26

- A Baptizer: “I with water....”

John’s baptism was a baptism of cleansing, but not of filling. It was a baptism of water, not of the Spirit

5 Baptisms throughout history

- Jewish “Baptism” - I want to become a Jew
- John’s Baptism - I want to repent of my sins
- Apostles Baptism - I want to repent of my sins
- Believers Baptism - I have been saved by grace
- Sacramental Baptism - A work of grace that saves me.

## II. JOHN KNEW WHO HE WASN’T

Verses 19-24

1. Not the messiah
2. Not Elijah

""But I will send you Elijah the prophet before that great and terrifying day of the Lord's judging." Mal 4:5 (NCV)

“But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.’ Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist." Mat 17:12-13 (NIV)

"And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."" Luke 1:17 (NIV)

3. Not the prophet

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him." Deu 18:15 (NIV)

One of life’s most crucial questions is in verse 22: Who Are You?

## III. JOHN KNEW WHO JESUS WAS

To be great you must understand who Jesus really is. The more you understand of Him the greater you can become. Notice the depth of John’s understanding of Jesus.

Verse 26

His PRESENCE:

Among you stands one you do not know

Verse 27

- His **GREATNESS**:

The thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie...

“Every service which a slave performs for his master shall a disciple do for his teacher except the loosing of his sandal thong.”

Rabbinic saying

“I did not know him.” 2 words for know... one means “to have a relationship or acquaintance with.” The other word means “to figure out.”

Verse 29

- His **PURPOSE**:

Look, the lamb of God!

“Takes away” the sin: not just covers over... takes away.

Verses 30-31

- His **NATURE**:

Surpassed me because he was before me.

John saw that one who had been born after him had existed before him

Verses 32-33

- His **CALLING**:

His I saw the spirit come down from heaven and remain on Him.

When did John know that Jesus was the one?

- His **POWER**:

He will baptize with the Holy Spirit

Verse 34

- His **GODHOOD**

I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God.

THE BIG TEST!!

John 3:22-30

“EVERYONE IS GOING TO HIM!”

Humility is a great idea... until it takes the focus off of you!  
Even more... until it puts the focus upon someone else.

John has 4 specific answers to this test of Humility

1. A man can receive only what is given to him from heaven.

The security of God’s **SOVEREIGNTY**.

2. I said “I am not the Christ”

The acceptance of his **HUMANITY**

3. I have the joy of a bridegroom’s friend who’s bride has come... complete joy!

The joy of **MINISTRY**

Christ is the bridegroom, his people the bride. John has been the friend who prepared the way for the bride to come to the bridegroom.

4. He must increase, I must decrease.

The urgency of **HUMILITY**

Want to live a great life?