



I. JOHN THE BAPTIZER PREPARES THE WAY—1:19-35

John the Baptizer was in the desert telling people about a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. John was dressed in clothes made from camel's hair. He wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

Mark 1:4-6 (GWT)

I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!

Matthew 11:11 (NLT)

1. Who John was:

- **John was not:**

⇒ **The Messiah (v.20)**

⇒ **Elijah (v.21)**

⇒ **The Prophet (v.21)**

- **John was:**

⇒ **A witness (v.7)**

⇒ **A voice (v.23)**

2. What John did:

- **Prepare the way for the Messiah (v.23)**

- Call Israel to repentance (v.24-28)
- Reveal who Jesus was (v.39-34)
 - ⇒ The ultimate sacrifice for sin (v.29)
 - ⇒ The eternal God in human flesh (v.30)
 - ⇒ The giver of the Holy Spirit (v.31-34)

II. JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES—1:35-51

The men and women to whom Jesus offered this gift were ordinary human beings, faulted and flawed, just like the rest of us. He gave his disciples no job descriptions; he did not disqualify Mary Magdalene because she had been afflicted with seven demons; he did not spend a lot of time looking for the most qualified people, the most adult. Instead, he chose people who were still childlike enough to leave the known comforts of the daily world, the security of their jobs, their reasonable way of life, to follow him

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1. Jesus asks me what I am looking for (v.35-37)
2. Jesus invites me to live with Him (v.38-39)
3. Jesus uses ordinary people like me (v.40-43)
4. Jesus forgives my ignorance (v.45-46)
5. Jesus knows everything about me (v.47-51)