



POINTING OTHERS TO JESUS

THEMES: Reaching for Others, Magnifying Jesus

Matthew 3:1-2; 5, 11 (NIV) *In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*

⁵*People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.*

¹¹*"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

Everything in the life of John the Baptist, pointed to Jesus. The Bible records that he had a strange diet of locusts and honey; he wore odd clothing (mostly of camel's hair); he preached repentance and baptism boldly in the wilderness; and he prophesied the Messiah was coming after him. This wild man built a great following of people but quickly bowed out when Jesus arrive and told his disciples to follow Jesus instead. He always pointed others to Christ. In the desert he had the perfect opportunity to be a celebrity preacher. Instead, he talked about Jesus being greater than he. When John's disciples had a dispute and expressed concern that the crowds were following Jesus, John responded, "*He must increase, but I must decrease.*" **John 3:30 (NKJV)**. John truly understood that he was just a servant. We can learn from John, to resist the temptation to promote self and selfish motives. Instead, make Jesus greater by pointing others to him.

Even when John began to have doubts, he pointed his questions to Jesus. Later in his life, things were probably not turning out the way John the Baptist expected. He had done his best to tell people that Jesus was Messiah, the Christ, the Savior. He had faithfully preached a God-given message of repentance and baptism. Then, instead of blessings, honor and retirement, John was thrown in prison. Questions gave way to doubt. If Jesus really were the Messiah, how would God ever allow his anointed preacher to be put in prison? So, John sent some of his disciples to Jesus to ask, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?" (**Luke 7:19-NKJV**). Jesus responded by simply showing John's disciples the miracles of healing Jesus was

performing and sent an encouraging message back to John...that he should not fall away from the faith.

The most devoted believers, like John the Baptist, have questions and doubt. We want to believe, and as soon as we are reminded of the truth of God's Word, our faith is restored. Don't be devastated if you have a temporary lapse in faith. Jesus said, "...among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist." (**Matthew 11:11**) He held on and made it past his doubts. Again, we can learn from John. When doubts come, don't discount the miraculous and take Jesus at his Word.

- Always Point Others to Jesus.
- Be Purposeful that the Influence of God Increases in your Life.
- When you have Faith *and* Doubt...Address your Fears to Jesus and Keep the Faith.

DO YOU WANT TO GO DEEPER?

REFLECT/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: What makes John the Baptist a good role model? How can I point others to Jesus right now? (ex. Invite a friend to a watch party for Point Church's online service, attend a Point Church Connect Group, teach a Bible study on Zoom, etc).

Have you had questions or doubt about your faith in Jesus lately?

What is a Bible verse that strengthens your faith?

PRAY: "Lord, let all that I am ...point others to you."

MORE SCRIPTURES: Psalms 100:3; Acts 13: 24-25; I John 5:4-5; Philippians 3:3

Point Others to Jesus