

# John the Baptist's Lesson

Week of Dec. 16 - 22, 2019

## Introduction

John the Baptist was born just before Jesus, and began his ministry just prior to Jesus. He was the setup man for the Savior. So many times, God sends us a hint of the promise to come in our lives. Moreover, many times God calls us to be a testifier for something or someone that God is trying to reach. In a sense, John is an ambassador for his disciples to discover Jesus. He prepares them to be curious and open to the Call of the Savior. The disciples begin to gather in the unfolding of the Kingdom of God as heralded by John the Baptist.

## Lesson John 1:29-39

**29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' **31** I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

**32** Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. **33** And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' **34** I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

**35** The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. **36** When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

**37** When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. **38** Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

**39** “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

## Questions

1. John the Baptist’s purpose was to point people in the direction of Jesus. Who are the people guiding you and pointing you in Jesus’ direction? Are you pointing others to Jesus? What is your testimony?
2. Although he prepared the way for Jesus, John does not know who to expect. John remained active and watchful. How can you find the balance between keeping steadfast in your faithfulness without letting life and life’s distractions become overwhelming?
3. In this Bible passage, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God...”. How do you think John felt when he recognized Jesus? How do you recognize Jesus?
4. John recalls Jesus’ baptism in this scripture lesson. What do you know and believe about your own baptism?
5. The two disciples called to follow Jesus said, “Rabbi” (which means teacher). How do you see Jesus as a teacher in your life?
6. Jesus replies to the disciples, “Come, and you will see”. How does Jesus call to you each day? How do you respond to Jesus’ calling? What does Jesus’ invitation mean for you as you live out your faith?

## **Prayer**

Lord, God, thank you for sending Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away all of my sins. Forgive me when I do not recognize you. Help me to know your presence in my life and teach me to truly live my faith. Thank you for loving me. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.