Greater Than John The Baptist

Tony Mauck · Matthew 11:2–15

INTRODUCTION

- His birth and his life was the subject of prophecy 400 years before he bursts on the scene in the wilderness.
- Behold, I am going to send my messenger, and he will clear the way before me.
- It is clear that John the Baptist is the fulfillment of those prophecies.

1 A Truly Great but Unappreciated Man

Matthew 11:11; Luke 7:30–35; John 3:30

- And he says of John, no one has arisen of woman greater than he.
- This was a truly great but often unappreciated man.
- He had a role, the subject of prophecy, that no one else ever had.
- I don't care who you are or how great you are, somebody will criticize you.
- John was unafraid to preach a message of repentance.
- He says in one of the great statements of Scripture, he must increase, but I must decrease.

2 Jesus' Criteria for True Greatness

1 Timothy 4:6

- He did exactly what God needed him to do.
- Are you doing what God has instructed you to do?
- The key ingredient is the godly link in our lives. It is about our rightness with God. It is about our likeness to God.
- But whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant.
- John was great because he was a selfless servant in God's plan.
- A good servant of Jesus Christ, that ought to be your goal. That's true achievement in this world.

3 How Can I Be Greater Than John?

Matthew 11:3; Matthew 11:11; Hebrews 11:40

- He who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
- And he sends word by his disciples to Jesus, and he says, Are you the expected one or shall we look for another?
- The reason why he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is because of our association with the Christ.
- He did not receive these privileges. He died prior to the coming kingdom that he prepared the way for.

- God has provided something better for us, so that apart from us, they could not be made perfect.

4 The Exalted Privileges We Have in Christ

Hebrews 12:22–28; Acts 19; Acts 4:12

- It is the exalted privileges that we have in Christ that we are able to draw near.
- That veil was torn in two with Jesus' death, and men were given access to God.
- John never had Jesus as his high priest.
- When Paul came in Acts 19, he found some individuals who had been baptized by John's baptism, but he instructed them to be baptized into something new.
- We know what John didn't or wasn't sure that he knew. Jesus is the one. There isn't any other.

THE CHALLENGE

Will you respond to his calling? Leave the darkness for the light. You could be greater than John the Baptist.

MY NOTES