

## John the Baptist – Smallness is Greatness

John the Baptist's view of himself - who are you?

John the Baptist's view of Jesus – who is He?

Our view of ourselves – who are we?

Our view of Jesus – who is He?

### 1. John's View of Himself

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was." (John 1:19)

Are you:

#### i. Messiah

He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." (John 1:20)

#### ii. Elijah

"Are you Elijah?". Now, why Elijah? Did the question suggest that they believed in reincarnation? Then how could they identify the Baptist with Elijah? (John 1:21)

#### iii. Prophet

Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. 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." (John 17:10-13)

Matt 11:2-15

#### iv. Voice (vs. 23)

<sup>22</sup> Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" (John 1:23)

### 2. John the Baptist's view of Jesus – who is He?

John says, 'I AM NOT'. Jesus says, "I AM".

The reason little leaders know "I am NOT" is because they know He is 'I AM'. And if His name is 'I AM', then by simple deduction, our name is 'I AM NOT.'

#### v. Baptizer

"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."  
(John 1:26)

"Humility is not trying to be humble, it's not trying to be little, humility is just seeing God for who He is. Pride is seeing ourselves as we are not." Louis Giglio

It's all about perspective.

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." (John 1:29-31)

I AM the way, I AM the truth, I AM the life. I AM the same yesterday, the same today, the same forever. I AM the answer. I AM the sustainer, I AM the restorer, I AM the resurrection and the life. I AM the beginning and the end, I AM the first, I AM the last; I AM God and there is no one besides Me. I AM the Lord and there is no other. I AM who I AM; that is My name; that is My promise to every generation. I AM God.