

'The Son of God and the Lord of Glory Series'

Sermons in the Gospel of John

Message 4 - A Man Named John John 1: 6 - 8



In the verses we have here, whilst the focus remains on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, we are introduced to John the Baptist. There was one person who was a very special witness to the Christ, that being, John the Baptist. John's purpose on this earth was to witness and bear testimony to the Light of the World. There are three things that we can see about this messenger:

1. A Man Sent from God (v6) - John the Baptist was truly sent by God and as such he had a very important role as he immediately preceded the Messiah. After 400 years of prophetic silence, John is raised, and yet, his purpose is to point people to Jesus. The centre of all ministry must be Jesus Christ, Him and Him alone! That is why the author of this gospel makes it so clear that John the Baptist was just a man. We can see very clearly a purposeful contrast between Jesus Christ and John in this verse. In the first two verses, Jesus was in the beginning, He was with God, in fact He was God. John is worlds apart, he came into existence at birth. John was the son of a man, whereas Jesus was the only begotten Son of God. John was just a man, yet Jesus was fully God. As John displays for us, the overwhelming end of a person's witness is to point out the excellencies of Christ, and lost man's need of the Saviour. John's name meant gracious. John was a man sent forth with a name to match his message. God's grace is marvellous, and John's message would be full of grace, because it would be full of Christ. John was to prepare the way of the Lord, and the person of the Lord Jesus Christ is quite simply the wonderful embodiment of God's glorious grace.

2. A Man with a Mission (v7) - John was sent, sent with a purpose, called and commissioned by God, and we need to see the reality of this mission. John was sent to bear witness of the Light. God gave him a message. John was to prepare the hearts of the people for the Messiah, and as a result he fearlessly confronted sin and called for repentance. John had a very specific message to proclaim the Light, Christ alone. The message was a given message. The servant of God is not left alone to somehow concoct a message of his own device. He is not dependent on his own reason, thoughts, ideas, and preferences. His message must be Christ, the Light of the World, as revealed in the Scriptures. The purpose of John's witness is very clear, that all men might believe.

3. A Man who Shone, but was Eclipsed (v8) - John was a great man, and he shone brightly, but he only shone as he reflected the glorious light of Christ. John shone as the moon reflects the light of the sun. He was not the Light. Jesus identified John and held him up when He said in Matthew 11:11, *'Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist.'* But, he was not the Light. John's humility is there for all to see. Even if a man has a great ministry in the eyes of people today that ministry is eclipsed by John the Baptist, yet his attitude was such that he said, *'It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.'* If God blesses you, let us thank Him for it, and give the glory and praise to Him. It is all of His grace. All the light that men possess is only reflected light of the glorious Son of God. Is humility a mark of my life, of yours? If we are those who have been saved by grace, it should be, for we can contribute nothing to our salvation, it is all of God, and therefore pride has no place.



Penzance Baptist Church

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