

“Lessons From A Great Man— John the Baptist”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 11:7-11.** John was a “great man.” Let’s learn from him!

I. John’s Character Traits.

A. Simplicity— Matthew 3:3-4.

1. John was in stark contrast to the relative luxury of the Jewish leaders.
2. “Into the wilderness” speaks to John’s priorities.
 - a. His emphasis wasn’t clothes or food, but time alone with God.
 - b. Material/Affluence destroying us? We are rich and don’t even know it!

B. Humility— John 1:19-21; 3:25-30.

1. It was John’s job to announce the arrival of “the man.”
2. He could have claimed a following for himself, but only prepared the way for someone else to be in the spotlight **John 1:35-37. (see also John 4:1)**

C. Openness— Matthew 11:2-3.

1. He had some questions and doubts. Why?
2. He verbalized them (Ex. Job, Habakkuk, Psalms...).
3. God didn’t cast him away! Jesus reassured him— **11:4-6.**

D. Forthrightness— Matthew 3:7.

1. John pointed out sin (**great example to all leaders!**).
2. Even greater example to us in his face to face encounters— **Matthew 14:3-4.**
3. He didn’t let King Herod’s prominence affect or hinder him. (Has friendship ever impacted our duty? John wasn’t a people pleaser! **Galatians 1:10**).
4. But more than anything else, John the Baptist is remembered for his **clear, straightforward, and very understandable** way he communicated truth!

II. John’s Teaching Traits.

A. His Message.

- (1) Repent— **Matthew 3:1-2.**
- (2) Reform— **Matthew 3:8.**
- (3) Restore— **Luke 1:17.**

B. Negative? — Matthew 3:7-12.

1. Heaven / Hell / Judgment. Sin is NOT ignored!
2. **Vs. 10.** “Cut down and burn.”
3. Negative preaching or truth preaching? **2 Timothy 4:2-4.**

C. Effective? Depends on what we mean....

1. **Matthew 3:5-6.** Great responses to his preaching!
2. **Luke 7:29-30.** But Not all, only some affected.

D. Enduring Traits— Matthew 14:1-12.

1. His teaching got him in trouble.
2. He was silenced: “When we don’t like the message—Kill the messenger!”
3. Did his death change the message/ truth? (**see Jeremiah 36:23**)

A servant is Not a STAR. Devoted to the work, Not honor. Yet, we honor him!