

# Prepare the Way of the Lord

John 1:6ff

<sup>6</sup>There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but [came] that he might bear witness of the light. ... <sup>15</sup>John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" <sup>16</sup>For of His fulness we have all received, and grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained [Him.] <sup>19</sup>And this is the witness of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>And he confessed, and did not deny, and he confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>They said then to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said." <sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>And they asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, [but] among you stands One whom you do not know. <sup>27</sup>"[It is] He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

Central Truth: John was sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus, not bring attention to himself.

## Introduction:

Compare:

John

Pharisees

Clothing

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\_\_\_\_\_

Food

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\_\_\_\_\_

Wealth

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Ambition

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Social Status

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PC Rating

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Humility

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who are we most like? \_\_\_\_\_ Who are you most like? \_\_\_\_\_

Between John and the Pharisees, who is right with God? \_\_\_\_\_

## Bible Study:

1. Who sent John?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What was John's purpose?

\_\_\_\_\_

From where did he get his purpose? \_\_\_\_\_ Did he ever seem to waver from his purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

3. From all you know from this and other passages, characterize John:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Application:

There is a man/woman sent from God whose name is \_\_\_\_\_.

This purpose must extend across your entire life, not just a portion of it.