



The Testimony of John the Baptist: The Testimony of Jesus' Greatness

March 29, 2026

Main Passage: John 1:19-28

1. John the Baptist (v19)

- John the apostle is set on glorifying Jesus in his gospel, and that is amplified in the life and death of John the Baptist. The Jordan Rift Valley is a place of great wilderness, which is where John the Baptist held his ministry. John the Baptist's origin and ministry were miraculous and powerful (Ministry – Matt 3, Origin – Luke 1). His ministry was bold and in a difficult place to reach for most people. John the Baptist was the last and greatest Old Testament prophet (Mt11:10, 11; Mal 3:1).

A) Read Matt 3 and Luke 1. What are some aspects of John's origin and ministry that characterize his life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B) How is John the Baptist the greatest of the OT prophets? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. John's Testimony (v 6-8)

- John the Baptist was a witness (referenced 13 times in one chapter). He had one job – to tell people about the importance and glory of Jesus Christ. The word "witness"/"testimony" is Greek the word for martyr (μαρτυρέω), and in the first century church you would probably die if you bore true witness to Jesus Christ. Modern day Christianity waters down the witness of Christ to easy believism. True witness of Jesus Christ is eternity-changing, and a life-shaping gospel changes us so that we have a testimony. John the Baptist could not get beyond the glory of Jesus Christ and it shaped his life and testimony. Our testimony should not be easily forgotten and neglected but bear witness to evangelize and make disciples.

C) Is this type of Christianity reflected in your own life? How would others describe the testimony that you bear for Christ (e.g. words, integrity, zeal)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D) Write down someone you can share your testimony with this week.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. The Jew's Questioning (v19-22)

- The Pharisees sent priests and Levites to question the ministry of John the Baptist. They wanted to know if he was the Christ (Messiah), Elijah, or the prophet (Deut 18). Before John the Baptist, there were over 400 years of silence - from the prophet

Malachi until John the Baptist. John challenged the priests/Levites saying that they did not know the One.

E) What was the intent behind the Jews questioning Jesus? What does that reveal about their heart? \_\_\_\_\_

F) Do you know the One (Jesus Christ), the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world? What do you have to boast in the Lord about? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4. The Prophecy Fulfilled (v. 23)**

- Isaiah 40 prophecies of the coming of John the Baptist (v3-5), to make straight the way before the coming of the Messiah. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, came to humble the proud and encourage the fainthearted (verse 5: Mountains – pride; Valley – doubt/fear). There is a hope here for all who do not know the One.

G) What is the importance of prophecy and what does it say about God and His word? \_\_\_\_\_

H) What hope do you have knowing that God is watching over His word to perform it? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **5. Honoring Jesus (v. 24-28)**

- In everything that John did, he put Jesus Christ on display (Mt 3:7; 3:10). His voice was bold and ours should be also. He knew His place under the authority of Jesus Christ (John 3:30).
  - a. Calling – know and honor God’s calling on your life
  - b. Submission – Actively place yourself under His authority
  - c. Voice – Use your voice and your life to tell the truth about Jesus Christ
  - d. Decrease – Purposefully seek opportunities to diminish so that people will make all of Christ

I) What is God’s calling on your life? Prayerfully consider God’s provision that He has given you to steward. \_\_\_\_\_

J) What would it look like in your own life for Jesus to increase and you to decrease? What are some next steps for you to submit your life to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

K) Who needs to hear more of your voice with a clear testimony of putting Jesus Christ forward in your own life? \_\_\_\_\_