

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

March 5, 2017
John 1:6-8,19-34

READ

● John 1:6-8,19-34 ● Luke 1:5-25,57-80 ● Matthew 3:13-17

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. What are some of the characteristics of John the Baptizer that come to mind? Reflect on passages such as: Luke 1:5-25,57-80; Matthew 3:1-6.
2. Luke 1:15 prophesies a unique characteristic of John: “he will drink no wine or liquor.” This seems to suggest that he would live under a Nazarite vow. Read Numbers 6:1-8. What else distinguished one under this vow? What is the purpose for this vow (there’s a key term that summarizes it)?
3. Look at vv. 6-8. What two related terms describe John’s purpose? How will they shape his ministry? What significance do they have for believers today?
4. Two interesting, and seemingly contradictory, issues are raised by our text. First, the Gospel says that John “was not the Light” (v. 8). What will Jesus say in John 5:35? How do the two statements reconcile? Second, John denies being “Elijah” (v. 21). What will Jesus say in Matthew 17:10-13? How do the two statements reconcile?
5. Why might the inquisitors have asked about him being “Elijah” (Malachi 4:5-6)?
6. Why might the inquisitors have asked about him being “the Prophet” (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)?
7. What did John affirm that he was (v. 23)? What is significant about this? What does John affirm throughout the passage about the “One whom you do not know”?

8. What did John affirm that he was doing (vv. 26 & 31)? What was his purpose in doing so?
9. In regard to this work, what does John the Baptizer seem to fail to mention, and John the apostle seem to fail to record, at this juncture?
10. The Synoptic Gospels record the baptism of Jesus (the Gospel of John does not). Review Matthew's account (3:13-17). Discuss your impressions.
11. What did God reveal to John in Jesus' baptism (vv. 32-33)? Why would this have remained concealed from him until this moment?
12. What does John say is a key component in Jesus' work—one that sets Him apart from all others (v. 33)? What will this mean for you?
13. Verse 34 is the high water mark of John's testimony. John the Baptizer is the first of six persons named in the fourth Gospel to give witness to Jesus' identity (seven if you include the author of the Gospel, 1:1-18). How is it expressed by these individuals?
 - John 1:34
 - John 1:49
 - John 6:69
 - John 9:35-38
 - John 11:27
 - John 20:28

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. I will be more aware of my responsibility as a witness by . . .
2. I will be more focused on highlighting the preeminence of Jesus by . . .