



John the Baptist Goes on Record: How to Live a Great Life

John 3:22-36

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Matthew 11:11 “Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist...” (NIV)

What made John the Baptist great?

People are leaving John the Baptist and following Jesus. (22-26) How would John the Baptist respond?

I can live the great life of John the Baptist when I:

- **Receive my role from God.** (27) (1 Cor. 4:7; 17:17; 2 Cor. 4:1)

John believed his role came from God, not himself.

Pride says: “I created this. I am an owner.”
Humility says: “God entrusted this. I am a steward.”

Colossians 1:25 ...I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me... (ESV)

Do I accept my lot in life?

Ecclesiastes 5:19 ...when God gives someone...the ability...to accept their lot and be happy in their toil–this is a gift of God. (NIV)

- **Know my role.** (28)

John knew who he was not and who he was – a witness of Jesus. (John 1:6-8, 15, 19-37; Matt. 3:1-17; 4:1; Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1)

2 Corinthians 4:5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord... (NIV)

I cannot be an effective witness for Jesus if I am confused about who I am.

A witness simply shares their story about Jesus: “This is who Jesus is, and this is what he has done for me.”

The main question is not: “How can Jesus help me?”
The main question is: “How can Jesus be seen in me?”

- **Rejoice in my role.** (29)

John experienced complete joy in his role.
When Jesus increases, Joy increases.

Envy has empty hands and wants them full – it lives in the self-pity of not possessing what others have.

Jealousy has full hands and never wants them empty – it lives in the fear of losing what it has.

John avoided both pitfalls and lived in joy.

- **Live my role.** (30)

John 3:30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.” (NAS)

Being a witness requires humility.

Life is not ultimately about making much of ourselves.
It is about making much of Jesus.

The less people see me, the more they will see Jesus.

Why go on the record about Jesus?
Because...**Jesus is greater in his:**

- **Origin:** He came from heaven, not earth. (31) (3:13; 6:33, 38, 50-51, 58; 8:42)
- **Words:** His words are from God, not people. (32-34) (Heb. 1:1-2; John 3:11; 8:26, 38; 14:10; 1 John 5:10)
- **Resources:** He has unlimited power and authority. (34-35) (Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:15-20)
- **Mission:** He is the source of eternal life. (36) (3:14-18)

Will I believe in Jesus and receive eternal life or resist him and continue living in condemnation?

**Lord, I want to decrease so you can increase in my life.
Today, I empty myself of _____
so you can be more full in my life.**