

V. JOHN WAS THE **BAPTIZER** (11:11)

“But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.” Luke 1:13

“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,” Matthew 3:1

*“4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.” Mark 1:4-5*

“Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized.” John 3:23

*“13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”
15 But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.” Matthew 3:13-15*

VI. JOHN WAS THE **GREATEST** (11:11)

“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord,...” Luke 1:15a

**ARE YOU LIVING A GREAT LIFE
IN THE SIGHT OF GOD?**

**THE GREATEST (John The Baptist)
Who Was John The Baptist?
Pastor Steve Reynolds**

INTRODUCTION

A. In sports there’s an acronym used to describe the greatest of all time. It’s the phrase “G.O.A.T.” It stands for the GREATEST OF ALL TIME. It is common for fans to argue over who is the greatest of all time in the various sports. But whose the greatest person ever born...the G.O.A.T. when it comes to everyone who has ever lived? Well, in this area there is no debate. Jesus made it clear that John the Baptist was “THE GREATEST,” the true G.O.A.T.

“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he” Matthew 11:11

B. What made John stand out that Jesus singled him out as the greatest? There were five great qualities that made John so great. In THE GREATEST teaching series you will learn how to live a great life by adding John’s five qualities to your life. This six part series features the following messages:

TODAY	Who Was John The Baptist?
Sept 1	The Greatness Of John’s Parents
Sept 8	The Greatness Of John’s Message
Sept 15	The Greatness Of John’s Obedience
Sept 22	The Greatness Of John’s Humilty
Sept 29	The Greatness Of John’s Courage

God has called all of us to greatness so plan now to attend this series as much as possible.

C. **Text:** Matthew 11:1-11 (Pew Bible/Page 945/New Test.)

WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

I. JOHN WAS A **STRONG** AND **BOLD** PREACHER (11:7b)

“1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” Matthew 3:1-2

“7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” Matthew 3:7-10

“3 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife. 4 Because John had said to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” Matthew 14:3-4

II. JOHN WAS A **COMMON** AND A **RUGGED** MAN (11:8)

“Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.” Matthew 3:4

“So they answered him, “A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.” II Kings 1:8

“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’” Matthew 11:18

III. JOHN WAS A **PROPHET** OF THE MOST HIGH (11:9)

“76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,” Luke 1:76-77

“5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.” Malachi 4:5-6

“He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1:17

IV. JOHN WAS THE **FORERUNNER** OF JESUS (11:10)

“Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts” Malachi 3:1

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.” Isaiah 40:3

“2 As it is written in the Prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.”

3 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ ” 7 And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.” Mark 1:2-3,7