

B. God **honors** humility.

“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”
II Chronicles 7:14

IV. OBEDIENCE REQUIRES **SURRENDER** (3:13-17)

A. **John** surrendered to baptize Jesus (3:13-14).

“His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”
John 2:5

B. **Jesus** surrendered to be baptized by John (3:15-17).

- The **motive** for Jesus to be baptized was to fulfill righteousness (v 15).

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”

Matthew 28:19

“There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,”

I Peter 3:21

- The **method** of Jesus’ baptism was immersion (vs 16-17).

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4

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

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

THE GREATEST (John The Baptist) The Greatness Of John’s Obedience 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 six 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 six qualities to your life. This seven part series features the following messages:

Aug 25	Who Was John The Baptist?
Sep 1	The Greatness Of John’s Parents
Sep 8 AM	The Greatness Of John’s Dedication
Sep 8 PM	The Greatness Of John’s Message
TODAY	The Greatness Of John’s Obedience
Sept 22	The Greatness Of John’s Humility
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 3:1-17 (Pew Bible/Page 946/New Test.)

THE GREATNESS OF JOHN'S OBEDIENCE

I. OBEDIENCE REQUIRES **REPENTANCE** (3:1-6)

- A. Repentance is a change of mind which produces a **U-turn** change of direction.

"5 Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." Isaiah 6:5, 8

"17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you," Luke 15:17-18

- B. Repentance was the **first** topic preached by Jesus and the apostles.

"14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Mark 1:14-15

"So they went out and preached that people should repent." Mark 6:12

- C. Repentance is the necessary for **salvation**.

"3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." Luke 13:3, 5

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord," Acts 3:19

"8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while.

9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. II Corinthians 7:8-10

- D. Repentance comes **before** faith.

"testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:21

- E. Repentance is not **optional**, it is universally commanded.

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,"

Luke 17:30

II. OBEDIENCE REQUIRES **FRUIT** (3:7-10)

- A. A **true** Christian will bear spiritual fruit (3:7-9).

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." II Corinthians 5:17

- B. The **absence** of fruit indicates a "dead faith" (3:10).

"But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?" James 2:20

III. OBEDIENCE REQUIRES **HUMILITY** (3:11-12)

In John's day, a servant carrying his master's sandals was one of the most menial task that could be performed.

- A. God **hates** pride.

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

James 2:20