

# Pointing to Jesus - John 1:19-34 John the Baptist

Source: <https://therivercolorado.org/sermons/pointing-to-jesus-2/>

## One Couldn't Help but Ask...

1. Who was John the Baptist and why did Jesus refer to him as the greatest man to be born of a woman? According to Matthew 11:11, Jesus stated “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.
2. Who did John the Baptist claim he was when asked by the religious leaders? He quoted Isaiah, John 1:23. He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord,”
3. Why were the religious leaders challenging John’s baptism of the people? Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”
4. In verse 21, John the Baptist is asked, “Are you Elijah?” and John the Baptist answers, “I am not.” In Matthew 11:13-14 and Mark 9:11-13 Jesus seems to announce that John the Baptist is Elijah. Is John the Baptist Elijah or not?
5. In verse 29 John the Baptist says, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”. How is it that John the Baptist knew that this guy Jesus was to be the sacrificial Lamb? In other words, did John the Baptist foreknow of the crucifixion?

## Takeaways

- Pride is the root of sin and the proudest character in the bible is Satan.
- The pattern for our lives should be from the Kingdom of Heaven down but it tends to be from our culture up. Our culture rewards those who personally stand out, not those who humbly serve.
- The disciples asked, "Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Mark 9:33). But Jesus, knowing the thoughts of their hearts, had a little child stand beside Him. And He said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in My name welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. For whoever is the least among all of you, he is the greatest.”
- “John’s real function was not to teach ethics, but to point men to Jesus. ‘Make straight the way of the Lord’ is a call to be ready, for the coming of the Messiah is near.” (Morris)
- John’s baptism gave nothing to help someone *keep* clean. The work of Jesus and His baptism of the Holy Spirit represents more than John’s baptism.
- The gospel of John emphasizes John’s role as a witness, not a baptizer. His witnessing gives testimony as to what they have seen and experienced, to establish the truth. Witnesses are not neutral – they are committed to the truth of their testimony, or they are unreliable witnesses. John was a reliable witness and knew who Jesus because of what he saw was with his own eyes.