



# A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

**The Witness of John the Baptist**

**Week 2 Lesson 2 Preview**

John 1: 19-34



MEMORIAL DRIVE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Down in the River to Pray: Alison Kraus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Eu85pZNoWY>

# MEMORY VERSE

**In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.**

**John 1:1**

# **THE WITNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

- 1. Who was John the Baptist?**
- 2. Baptism in the OT and the Baptism of John**
- 3. John's Witness: 2 Sermons**
  - Who he was and was not**
  - Who Jesus is**



## Who Was John the Baptist?

- Birth prophesied in Luke 1:5-25
- Relative of Mary, mother of Jesus
- Son of a temple priest
- May have been a Nazarite (Luke 1:15)
- Often called the last prophet of the OT
- All 4 Gospels apply Isaiah 40:3 to John the Baptist

# **BAPTISM IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

**Baptism was more regularly practiced than we realize before John.**

**Customary rite marking conversion to Judaism from other religions evolved during the intertestamental period from OT rites of purification.**

**Typically the convert baptized himself.**

# **THE BAPTISM OF JOHN**

**John applied baptism to Jews NOT to Gentiles converting to Judaism.**

**John did the baptizing rather than the convert, although all other purification rites were performed by priests or Levites—John was neither.**

**Religious authorities were upset by this irregularity so sent a delegation to confront John and ask him by what authority he called Jews to undergo a cleansing ritual.**

**References: Dale Bruner, The Gospel of John, a Commentary**

**R. C. Sproul, John, St. Andrew's Expository Commentary**

# Why “I Am Not Elijah” ?

The final prophecy in the Old Testament was that Elijah would reappear before the coming of the Messiah.

**Malachi 4: 5-6**

Elijah did not die but ascended to heaven in a whirlwind, so he could come back.

**2 Kings 2:11**





# Why “I Am Not Elijah” ?

But Jesus **DID** identify John the Baptist with Elijah in the gospels of Matthew and Luke.

**Matthew 11: 13-15**

**Matthew 17: 12-13**

**Luke 1: 17**

# Why “I Am Not The Prophet” ?



**For Moses said,  
'The Lord your God  
will raise up for you a  
prophet like me from  
among your own  
people; you must  
listen to everything  
he tells you.'**

*Acts 3:22-23,7:37  
Deuteronomy 18:15 & 18*

*Prophecy written centuries before that Jesus would fulfill*

# **The First Sermon of John the Baptist**

**John 1: 19-28**

# Three “I AM’s”

- I am voice for the Lord
- I baptize in water
- I am unworthy

# **I Am a Voice for the Lord**

**Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all affirm that John is the voice identified in Isaiah 40:3**

**A voice cries “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”**

# I Baptize in Water

**John distinguishes between baptizing in water which is the work of a human being with human means and the baptism of the Spirit which is of God.**

# **I Am Not Worthy**

**John expresses a deep sense of unworthiness before the one he serves.**

**“...among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.**

**John 1: 26-27**

# **I Am Not Worthy**

**Under the law of Moses, an Israelite slave should never be given a task too degrading such as taking off his master's shoes or washing his feet. (Lev. 25: 39-40).**

**John the Baptist is saying he is not even worthy to be Jesus' slave.**



# **The Second Sermon of John the Baptist**

**John 1: 29-34**

# **Theme: Who Jesus Is**

**Jesus Relieves the Sins of the World**

**Jesus Baptizes in the Holy Spirit**

**Jesus is the Son of God**

**In these two sermons, John the Baptist is teaching us:**

**How we should think and speak about ourselves in relation to Jesus**

**How we should speak and think about Jesus Himself.**

**Dale Bruner says that John the Baptist's First Sermon is meant to show him as a model of Christian ministry and witness:**

**He knows who he IS and who he IS NOT.**

# Applying the Lesson In Your Life

**List three things you know you ARE and three things you know you ARE NOT as a disciple of Christ.**