

“The World’s Greatest Man”

Wednesday Evening Bible Class by Ray Reynolds (January 15, 2014)

Introduction: Who is the greatest man to ever walk the face of the earth? In **Luke 3:1–20**, would you believe that Jesus answered that question? Basically Jesus says that John deserves the title “The World’s Greatest Prophet” or “The World’s Greatest Man” for that matter. I would like for us to study about him for two reasons tonight. First, because we need to know the significant impact that John had in history. Second, we need to know that like John the Baptizer, anyone can have a spiritual impact. Assuming that we know nothing about John, let’s start our study with his story in **Luke 1**. Hopefully we will see that like John we need to point people to Jesus. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. John the Baptizer Had a Spiritual Impact on His Family

- A. Family vows
- B. Family ties
- C. Family values

II. John the Baptizer Had a Spiritual Impact on His Community

- A. His trademark
- B. His teaching
- C. His training

III. John the Baptizer Had a Spiritual Impact on the Lost

- A. His ministry was ground breaking
- B. His ministry was soul changing
- C. His ministry was life altering

IV. John the Baptizer Had a Spiritual Impact on the Church

- A. His life
- B. His love
- C. His legacy

Conclusion: Are you ready to make an impact on those around you? Are you willing to use your gifts and talents to the glory of the Lord? God is prepared you for service. God wants to use you in ministry. Will you seek out your true purpose in life?

Saint John the Baptist

by William Drummond (1585-1649)

The last and greatest herald of heaven's king,
Girt with rough skins, hies to the deserts wild,
Among that savage brood the woods forth bring
Which he than man more harmless found and mild:

His food was locusts, and what young doth spring,
With honey that from virgin hives distilled;
Parched body, hollow eyes, some uncouth thing
Made him appear long since from earth exiled.

There burst he forth: "All ye, whose hopes rely
On God, with me amidst these deserts mourn;
Repent, repent, and from old errors turn."
Who listened to his voice, obeyed his cry?

Only the echoes which he made relent,
Rung from their marble caves, Repent, repent.

John the Baptizer: The World's Greatest Man

by Ray Reynolds

The prophets foretold of Elijah's return
Who would straighten the path for God's Only Son.

His language was brash, his actions taboo,
But his presence was needed to make the way smooth.

Rough cloth and strange diet describe the man
Who taught of repentance from all manner of sin.

He chose the Jordan to baptize in much water
Though his challenge to them was to look to the Father.

A multitude of sinners, publicans, and soldiers
Came to John seeking forgiveness for their spiritual blunders.

He taught of bearing fruit, helping the needy, and living a good life
And Herod he warned not to take his brother's wife.

"The kingdom is coming!" he declared with a cry.
"One is coming that is mightier than I."

Jesus was baptized on that river side by John
To "fulfill all righteousness" is why it was done.

John saw Jesus as "God's precious Lamb"
But Jesus called John the "World's Greatest Man."