
Getting Practical:

Making Much of Jesus:

In order to, "Make much of someone/something," humility must take place. In order to exalt Jesus, we must become humble. No one understood this better than John the Baptist. He was a great man, because he understood his calling/purpose and followed through with obedience. He didn't exalt himself even when he easily could have. He came to serve the world and call us to recognize that Love had come. For Christians, humility begins with recognizing our role in God's Grand Story. If we believe this Story/Life is about us, we will never carry out the work that God has for us. "He must increase, and we must decrease."

How do we live in humility?

- We are called to live in community. Each of us need relationships that will challenge us to live humbly, and when we're not we need people who will tell us the "hard truth." Find these people!
- Pray for continual humility. There is no substitute for stopping, reflecting, and asking God to humble you.
- Reflect and Learn more about God's Grand Story. The more we learn about grace and our place within the story, it humbles us.
- Serve others in your community. It will humble you.

Don't Miss

- The Four Corners Offering during July is for Jehovah-Jireh Ministries.
- Don't wait till next week to discuss with others how you can tangibly bring Shalom to the world.

"Perfect in Balance"



EverGreen
Ministries
July 25, 2010

Message Notes:

Explore the Story, Discover Your Life *A Study for Small Groups and Individuals*

Remembering – “Perfect in Balance”

- Look at your message notes. What part of the message made you wonder, want to know more, held particular meaning for your life, or just caught your attention?

Being Shaped by the Text: Who is JTB?

In Matthew 11:7-11 Jesus says that JTB (John the Baptist) is the greatest among all the men who ever lived. This includes all the previous prophets and kings. John is a part of the old covenant and not the new kingdom that Jesus is ushering in. However, his role is to herald in the coming Messiah. He does this effectively and pays for it with his life.

EXPLORE!

- **Read Matthew 11:1-11**
 - How do we define greatness?
 - Why do you think Jesus calls JTB the greatest?
 - What does this say about how God defines “greatness?” How is this different than the definitions we gave?

JTB – Teacher/Rabbi

While all of the other rabbis and Jewish sects of the day would have been concerned with losing influence and followers to Jesus, one person stands out in opposition to this concern. Rabbis were defined by their knowledge, influence, and followers. In a conversation with his disciples, JTB will speak rather passionately on this subject. Let's look closer at this interaction:

- **Read John 3:23-26**
 - What are the disciples' concerns? Why would they be valid concerns at this point?
 - How would this situation affect JTB?

JTB - The Humble Worker

In Matthew 11 Jesus quotes a passage from Malachi 3 when discussing the person and work of JTB. We also see in Luke 1:17 the purpose of JTB's life: “And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” John was to be a workman for God, his purpose was to usher in the coming Messiah.

- **Read John 3:27-30**
 - How do we view our work on this earth? Are we just getting through / getting by?
 - How does John view his work on this earth?
 - How does this affect his attitude toward it?
 - In our work, do our attitudes reflect a desire for us to be magnified or for God to be?

JTB – The Reality Checker

JTB has a great grasp on the reality of his situation. Even though John isn't sure exactly how Jesus is going to fulfill His purposes, he relies fully on the Text being true concerning Jesus. JTB's reality is seen through a loving God and a biblical worldview.

- **Read John 3:31-36**
 - What affect do John's beliefs pertaining to his reality have on his actions?
 - We see that John realizes that everything has been given into Jesus' hands by the Father...How does this truth tangibly affect the reality of our lives in following areas: Family, Leisure, Arts, Media, etc?
 - How do our passions change in these areas?

“John the Baptist was not a passive person. He longed to fulfill his work and life calling of making much of Jesus...May we do the same as members of His kingdom.”