

Discussion Questions Set #1

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.” Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One ... The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:29-36)

“you are the light of the world ... people [do not] light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”. (Matthew 5:14-16)

John the Baptist seems to have clearly understood his role in announcing or pointing people to Jesus. Scripture posits that we too have a role in announcing/revealing Christ in the world.

1. When you think about pointing people to Jesus, what make you most nervous?
2. Discuss the various ways of practically pointing people to Jesus (think of words, deeds, etc.). Make a list of these ways.
3. When you consider the list you generated, which do you find that you most gravitate towards in practice? Which do you least gravitate towards?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.” (John 1:7)

“I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children” (Luke 10:21)

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”. (Acts 1:8)

In sermon, we discussed that this little statement is actually quite loaded in terms of its content, containing an identity statement, a life-guiding action and a purpose.

1. Discuss the significance of the following words/phrases:
 - a. Witness
 - b. Testify
 - c. So that all might believe
2. The word “witness” usually refers to a person who verifiably sees something. While this holds for John the Baptist, who actually saw Jesus with his own eyes, we do not share this same luxury. Discuss how we can be “witnesses” to Jesus, some 2,000 years after His ascension.
3. Discuss the relationship between witness and testimony. How might the Holy Spirit be involved in this relationship?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“He must become greater; I must become less” (John 3:30)

In sermon, we discussed John the Baptist’s posture in life using three words: prefer, defer and refer.

1. Discuss how these three postures ought to be at work in the life of the follower of Jesus.
2. When you think of these three words, which is most difficult for you to put in to practice? If you could only choose one to “grow” in, which of the three areas would you choose?