

John the Baptist Contrasts

The questions below make the life and ministry of John the Baptist somewhat confusing. Nevertheless, it is our responsibility to study to understand why these contrasts exist in the first place. These questions should make for an interesting group discussion.

John Preaching and Baptizing

- » John said he should be baptized by Jesus (Mt.3:14)
- » While baptizing Jesus John sees the heavens opened, the Spirit descending upon Christ like a dove, and remaining upon Him (Mt.3:16)
- » John heard a voice from heaven saying "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt.3:17; Lk.3:21-22)
- » John sees Jesus and says, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn.1:29)

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- « John, while in prison, sends 2 disciples to Jesus to ask if He is the expected one (Mt.11:23; Lk.7:18-39)

Questions From the Jews

- » Priests and Levites from Jerusalem ask John if he is "the Christ", "Elijah", or "the Prophet". John says "no" to all (jn.1:20-22)

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- « Jesus said John is the "messenger" of Malachi 3:1, and the one who "prepares the way" of Isaiah 40:3 (Mt.11:10)
- « Jesus said "if you care to accept it, then he himself [John] is Elijah, who was to come"

Jesus ate but John Didn't

- » John did not come eating and drinking, but they say he has a demon (Mt.11:18)

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- « Jesus, the son of man came eating and drinking, and they say He is a glutton and wine drinker.
- « Jesus also associate with tax-gatherers and "sinners"