**Simply Amazing Series**

**“John the Baptist: Amazed to Introduce the Chosen One”**

**September 25, 2011**

**Pastor Wayne Driedger**

**John 1:19-34**

**This was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants[**[**a**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:19-34&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26029a)**] from Jerusalem to ask John, “Who are you?” 20 He came right out and said, “I am not the Messiah.”**

**21 “Well then, who are you?” they asked. “Are you Elijah?”**

**“No,” he replied.**

**“Are you the Prophet we are expecting?”[**[**b**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:19-34&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26031b)**]**

**“No.”**

**22 “Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?”**

**23 John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah:**

**“I am a voice shouting in the wilderness,
      ‘Clear the way for the Lord’s coming!’”[**[**c**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:19-34&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26033c)**]**

**24 Then the Pharisees who had been sent 25 asked him, “If you aren’t the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?”**

**26 John told them, “I baptize with[**[**d**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:19-34&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26036d)**] water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. 27 Though his ministry follows mine, I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal.”**

**28 This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.**

**Jesus, the Lamb of God**

**29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 He is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’ 31 I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.”**

**32 Then John testified, “I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. 33 I didn’t know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God.[[e](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:19-34&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-26044e" \o "See footnote e)]”**

19-20When Jews from Jerusalem sent a group of priests and officials to ask John who he was, he was completely honest. He didn't evade the question. He told the plain truth: "I am not the Messiah."

 21They pressed him, "Who, then? Elijah?"

   "I am not."

   "The Prophet?"

   "No."

 22Exasperated, they said, "Who, then? We need an answer for those who sent us. Tell us something—anything!—about yourself."

 23"I'm thunder in the desert: 'Make the road straight for God!' I'm doing what the prophet Isaiah preached."

 24-25Those sent to question him were from the Pharisee party. Now they had a question of their own: "If you're neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?"

 26-27John answered, "I only baptize using water. A person you don't recognize has taken his stand in your midst. He comes after me, but he is not in second place to me. I'm not even worthy to hold his coat for him."

 28These conversations took place in Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing at the time.

**The God-Revealer**

 29-31The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I've been talking about, 'the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.' I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God."

Read passage: John said that Jesus was amazing

Profile on John:

Fascinating figure because there are not a lot of stories about John…we don’t know a lot yet Jesus said that he was the most amazing person that ever lived. He was not rich.

He was the anti celebrity. He would have been considered pretty bizarre…

**EVAN ALMIGHTY CLIP**

**Wild looking Evan Picture**

John wasn’t embarrassed by what he looked like. He kinda yelled when he talked. He had spent a lot of time out by himself in the desert and he knew who he was and he had a very clear purpose in life. The most effective people in life seem to know those things. He started telling people about God and how to be in tune with him It eventually got him killed because he said that Herod shouldn’t have killed his first wife to marry another one. Made the king really angry and he had him killed. At this point in the story, his cousin shows up and he recognises that his cousin was the one. That’s why he says that he existed way before him…in reality their birth dates were months apart.

I am not amazing but HE is and I hope that you can recognise him when he comes.

**Illust: tshirts with….I’m kinda a big deal….I am so epic I can’t hear you…**

How to recognize this amazing God when he shows up;

There are hints here from why the priests didn’t recognize Jesus as God among them and why John did…eventually.

**Vs 26 “…right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize.”**

**Vs 31 “I did not recognize him …”**

If John didn’t recognize him, then who will?

“Beasts in the Garden” a book about the US ambassador to Germany in the years just before Hitler became a military aggressor. They did not recognize a tyrant. There were tons of signs but they didn’t want to offend and they didn’t want to lose the money that they had loaned them and have them default on their debts. Money and some of their own biases kept them from intervening in a horrible evil.

**Could God be showing up in my life and I am not even recognizing Him?**

I want to see you and meet with you:

**Expect to meet Jesus among the poor and weak …and in your own weakness**

**Vs 21 “Are you the Prophet we are expecting?”**

**Vs 27 Though his ministry follows mine, I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal.”**

**“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of heaven is theirs.” Matthew 5:3**

God shows up in “the least among you”…he is often on the fringes

……………….without credentials that you have. If you are rich and powerful….poor and weak. Maybe if you are poor, you think that he could not possibly show up in the life of a rich or powerful person.

Sophirino’s story

**Detach from the hurry and noise.**

**Vs 23   “I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Clear the way for the Lord’s coming!’”[**[**c**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:19-34&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26033c)**]**

 Pretty quiet in the desert…crickets maybe. Get yourself a desert experience. I have commitments and work and family…get 5 minutes in the morning or at lunch. Meditate on some awesome truth. Peter with his verse for the morning. You may be able to take off for a long time. Jim meeting people on his bike trip.

**Understand why we do spiritual rituals.**

**Vs 24 and 25  24 Then the Pharisees who had been sent 25 asked him, “If you aren’t the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?”**

**Take steps to clean your heart**

**Vs 26 “…I baptize with water…”**

**That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God." The Message**

**“God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God” Matthew 5:8**

**Be open to amazing signs**

**Vs33b ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’**

**Keep it simply about the “ONE”**

**Vs. 34b I testify that he is the Chosen One of God.[**[**e**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:19-34&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26044e)**]”**

 Be monogamous….Illustration of marriage – limit it to one and you get the full benefits of marriage. Run around and try different paths and philosophies which are really paths recommending other gods…