

Sacrifice...



Or Privilege?

## Ministry: Sacrifice or Privilege?

John 1:19-37

March 7, 2021 — Pastor Robert Reid

### INTRODUCTION

In a culture deeply infected with a spirit of entitlement how do we view service? Do people shy away from serving Christ because it looks too demanding, too hard, or too much of a sacrifice? We learn today from John the Baptist's example a different perspective. For a servant of Christ to have an enjoyable and productive ministry, they must see ministry more as a privilege than a sacrifice. John the Baptist did.

John 1:6-7

### FIRST John the Baptist considered it a...

#### I. Privilege to bear witness of the Light because he understood who he was John 1:19-23

A. Who he was not (19-21)

No delusion regarding his \_\_\_\_\_

1:10-11

B. Who he was (22-23)

No confusion of his \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 40:3  
Luke 1:17  
Matt. 5:14-16  
Act 1:8  
2 Cor. 5:19-20

### SECOND John the Baptist considered it a...

#### II. Privilege to bear witness of the Light because he understood who Christ was John 1:24-28

A. He had a clear understanding of Christ (24-26)

Divine \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 13:24-28  
Matt. 3:16-17

B. He understood how he related to Christ (27-28)

Human \_\_\_\_\_

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|---|---|
| <p><b>THIRD John the Baptist considered it a...</b></p> <p><b>III. Privilege to bear witness of the Light because he could share this truth with others      John 1:29-34</b></p> <p>HOW HE DID THIS... three elements of his witness</p> <p>A. Directs _____ to Christ. (29)</p><br><p>B. Declares Christ _____ (29-30)</p><br><p>C. Describes his _____ re: Christ (31-34)</p><br><p><b>FOURTH John the Baptist considered it a...</b></p> <p><b>IV. Privilege to bear witness of the Light because he saw others      also follow Christ      John 1:35-41</b></p> <p>A. Shared his _____ about Jesus (35-37a)</p><br><p>B. Saw his _____ follow Jesus (37b-39)</p><br><p>C. Saw them come to the same _____ (40-41)</p><br><p>D. Saw them bring _____ to _____ (42)</p><br><p><b>FURTHER REFLECTION OR ACTION</b></p> <p>1. What is your understanding of Christ and how you relate to him?</p> <p>    ♦ Do you need to spend more time sharpening your understanding?</p> <p>    ♦ How will you do this?</p> <p>2. How engaged are you in the ministry of pointing other to Jesus Christ? Some years ago, George Barna found 1 out of 4 unchurched people said they would attend church if they were personally invited by a friend. What can you do to make that possible?</p> <p>3. What one feature of John the Baptist's life impressed you most? Are you willing to let the Holy Spirit work in you in that are so that Jesus Christ can be exalted in your life and ministry?</p> <p>4. Reflect on the words of David Livingston, a Scottish medical missionary and explorer when he addressed the students at Cambridge University: "People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. . . Away with the word in such a view, and with such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege." Is that our attitude?</p> | <p>Isaiah<br/>53:6,7,10</p><br><p>Matt. 3:13-14</p> |
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