



#3 John the Baptist's Declaration *John 1 (ESV)*

“PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD”

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

1. John was commissioned by God to BEAR WITNESS of Someone Else

John 1:6 *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

2. John testified that he was the prophesied HERALD sent in advance of the Lord to announce His arrival

John 1:19 *And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”*

3. John recognized that he was subservient to Christ and hoped to be completely OVERSHADOWED by Him

John 1:25 *They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”*

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

4. John called people to stop and stare at the One Who would do for them what NO ONE ELSE could do

John 1:29 *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’”*
John 1:34 *And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”*