

## **Lessons From John The Baptist It's Not About Me**

**Matthew 11:9-11** But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.' "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**John 3:26-30** And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified – behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!" John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.

### **I. Love Is Not Selfish**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5** Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

**Philippians 2:3-4** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

**James 3:16** For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

### **II. Keeping Up With The Joneses, Physical Competition**

**Ecclesiastes 4:4** Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

**Exodus 20:17** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

**1 Timothy 6:6-9** Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

**Hebrews 13:5-6** Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

### **III. Do Not Become Puffed Up Because Of Your Abilities Or Blessings**

**1 Corinthians 8:1** Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

**1 Timothy 3:6** not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth."

**1 Corinthians 1:26** that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

### **IV. Spiritual Competition**

**Luke 9:46** Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest.

**Luke 22:24** Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

**1 Corinthians 1:11-12** For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."

**Matthew 18:4** Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 23:11** But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

### **V. It Is Not About Me, It Is About Other's Salvation**

**Matthew 5:39-41** But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

**1 Corinthians 8:8** But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

**1 Corinthians 8:13** Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

**1 Corinthians 10:31-33** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.