

How to shift the spotlight

- It's not about John the Baptist; it's about Jesus Christ.
- God helps people help people but only Jesus Christ **transforms** people.
- Past baggage and present addictions aren't the real problem; they're symptoms of the real problem; we need **saving** and can't save ourselves. We need a Savior.

SHIFT THE SPOTLIGHT.

Scene 1: People try to identify John the Baptist: "Who are you?" - 1:19-28

Priests and Levites to John: "Who are you?" 1:19

John: "I am not the **Christ**." 1:20

Priests and Levites: "And they asked him, "What then? Are you **Elijah**?" 1:21

Matthew 3:4 *"Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey."*

John: "He said, "I am not." 1:21

Priests and Levites: "Are you the Prophet?" 1:21

John: "And he answered, "No." 1:21

Priests and Levites: "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?" 1:22

John: "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." 1:23

Quotation from Isaiah 40:3 *"A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*

Priests and Levites: "They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 1:25

John: "John answered them, ²⁶ 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." 1:26-28

Scene 2: John the Baptist publicly identifies Jesus as Messiah – 1:29-34

- Jesus is the **Lamb** of God who takes away the **sin** of the **world** – 1:29-31
"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.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."

- Jesus offers a **greater** baptism – 1:32-34
"And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."