

The Ministry of Preparation

Scripture: **Luke 7:24–30**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, February 4, 2018



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

Though we had just seen John the Baptist wrestling with his doubts in Luke 7:18-23, Jesus magnifies John before the crowd in verses 24–28. John is “more than a prophet” and the greatest of those who have been born of women. Yet, even a person you might consider the least in the Kingdom of God (i.e. born of God) is greater than John, born of women. As impressive as John’s ministry is, it’s greater purpose was to prepare the way and the people for receiving Jesus and thereby becoming true saints. **God graciously prepares His people for whatever comes next.**

Corroborating Texts

Luke 3:4-6; Luke 1:16-17; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 1:2-4; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Romans 8:28

Discussion Questions

1. What exactly makes John the greatest of all those born of women? [God gave him the special role of not just foretelling, but actually introducing the long-anticipated messiah]
2. What is it about the least person in the kingdom of God that makes them greater than John? [Our regard for John the man is rooted in what he did; citizens of the kingdom are great because of who they are in Christ—bearers of His righteousness]
3. How did John prepare the way and the people for Jesus? [He preached that all deserve condemnation, that the messiah is our only hope for righteousness, and he baptized those who believed]
4. Do you think John’s message of preparation (Luke 3:7-18) made the hearers comfortable? Why was it necessary for the people hearing it to first be made uncomfortable?
5. Can you identify times when God has used discomfort, affliction, or other surprising circumstances to prepare you for something much greater?