

Jesus & John the Baptist:

Humility

Men's midweek (10/23/2024)

Jesus & John: Harmony through Humility

"If you judge according to style, John the Baptizer and Jesus of Nazareth were hardly two peas in a pod. One did his preaching out in the desert; the other worked mostly in the villages and cities. One lived a Spartan lifestyle and was the first-century equivalent of the earthy-crunchy soul; the other, while no candidate for the country club, did have a reputation for showing up where there was plenty of food and drink (and even on occasion for providing the wine)." – Tom Jones

	John the Baptist	Jesus
Angel appears to parent	¹¹ An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified and overcome with fear. – Luke 1	²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. – Luke 1
Birth/name foretold	¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. – Luke 1	³⁰ Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. – Luke 1
Miracle/Parental response	¹⁸ "How can I know this?" Zechariah asked the angel. "For I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years." – Luke 1	³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?" – Luke 1
Prenatal encounter	³⁹ In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and	³⁹ In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and

	Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. – Luke 1	Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. – Luke 1
Parental song	Luke 1:67-79 (Zechariah)	Luke 1:46-55 (Mary)
Circumcised on 8 th day	⁵⁹ When they came to circumcise the child on the eighth day, they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother responded, “No. He will be called John.” – Luke 1	²¹ When the eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus—the name given by the angel before he was conceived. – Luke 2
Shall be called	⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins. – Luke 1	³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end.” – Luke 1
Childhood	⁸⁰ The child grew up and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel. – Luke 1:80	⁴⁰ The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God’s grace was on him. – Luke 2 ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people. – Luke 2 ²⁶ ...the boy Samuel grew in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people. – 1 Samuel 2
Other compare/contrast (Luke 1-2)		

“He who humbles himself will be exalted.” Jesus’ relationship with John is a model for all leaders. It is a model for every marriage. It is a model for every relationship in the kingdom of God. In Jesus of Nazareth we learn that God is humble and that he honors all who humble themselves. – Tom Jones

1. Read Luke 3:1-22
 - a. Are you humble enough to speak the truth in love to others (even at risk of your own popularity or position)?
 - b. What does Jesus lining up like everyone else and waiting in line to get baptized say to you about his humility?
2. Read Matthew 3:13-17
 - a. (How) do you take discipling - encouragement and correction?
 - b. Jesus, who was sinless submitting to a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins shows great humility, and a desire to identify with us. Jesus was more worried about his character than his reputation. Can you give an example of a time when you weren't worried about "clearing your name", but rather you let God vindicate you?
3. Read John 3:22-30
 - a. John does not get prideful or competitive when he learns that Jesus is also baptizing, and "everyone is going over to him." In what areas of your life do you feel a sense of rivalry? At work? At home? In your neighborhood? In the church?
 - b. John said "He [Jesus] must become greater, I must become less". Do you feel that way about Jesus? In what ways do you hold up the name of Jesus instead of your own? Or is this an area in which you struggle?
4. Read John 4:1-3
 - a. Jesus was committed to "making and baptizing disciples" during his ministry, and charged his followers to do the same (Matthew 28:18-20). What role does humility play in helping others become Christians and "teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded"?
 - b. Jesus refuses to let others stir up dissension and factions and envy between he and John. In what situations in your life can you be a (better) peace-maker? Do you stir up discord by the things you post on Social Media, or in conversations you have? (if you aren't sure, ask someone close to you)
5. Read Luke 7:18-30
 - a. Humility says things like "I don't have all the answers", or "I have doubts about...", and then seeks to get answers. What doubts or fears do you have that you need to take to God? Are there things in the Word that you don't understand? How do you handle it when you have doubts in your faith or walk with God?
 - b. What relationship that you have would be greatly changed by a good talk about how you want to show humility and not pride? Is there any relationship that you could begin to repair today with a phone call or a letter in which you apologized?
 - c. Meditate on 1 Peter 5:5-7 this week. If you were to imitate Jesus and John in the passages discussed in this lesson, what changes would you make immediately?