

**JOHN THE BAPTIST PART III**  
**“OPENING THE DOOR FOR A KING”**  
**MATTHEW 3 AND JOHN 1**  
**MAY 13-14, 2017**

**INTRODUCTION**

- John the Baptist was an Old Testament prophet and introduced the King of the New Testament. He was a bridge.
- Last week we talked about repentance.
- Today, what makes people great, not in the eyes of men, but in God’s eyes.

**I. HEARING THE HEART OF THE FATHER**

- Matthew 3:11-12 MSG, “I’m baptizing you here in the river...The real action comes next: the main character in this drama... will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out...”
- John was a man of revelation.
- “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Where did he get that?”
- From God, just listening to his Father speak in his times alone.
- This takes humility, a heart bowed towards the Father; John had this.
- As Pastor Shane said last week, “Everything John got from God he got in private before it was done in public.”

**II. THE LAMB OF GOD**

- John had been out in the desert preaching and baptizing people probably 6 months to maybe a year.
- John 1:29-32, “The next day he saw Jesus coming...”

- “The Lamb of God” the sacrifice...the one prophesied to be led to the slaughter.
- Isaiah 53:6-7 – The Passover Lamb
- This was a struggle for John and the people because they thought they were getting a deliverer who would deliver them from Rome.
- Romans 6:23, “The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**III. THE BAPTIZER WITH FIRE**

- John baptized with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- God wants rivers of living water to flow in and out of each of us.

**IV. JOHN’S WINDOW CLOSES**

- John knew his time was short.
- Once he baptized Jesus it was over; Jesus took his followers the day after! - John 1:35-42
- Amazing John was ok with that, but he said he knew his call was to point people to Jesus not himself.
- John 1:6-8,19-23, “...<sup>23</sup>He said, ‘I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.”
- This should be our goal, not for people to see us but Him!
- John 3:22-30, “...<sup>30</sup>He must increase, but I must decrease.”

**CLOSE**

- The only way you can grow is decrease so He can increase.