

***“Not me, but him!”***  
**The Testimony of John the Baptist**  
John 1:19-37

***The role of a witness is to tell people of what they have seen.*** Rather than call attention to himself, John the Baptist made it very clear that his role was to point people to Jesus. John 1:19-37 describes three days in the ministry of John the Baptist where he continually told people about who Jesus was and what he came to do.

**John the Baptist**

- Born to elderly parents (Luke 1:5-25, 57-79)
- Called to ministry before his birth (Luke 1:15-17)
- No stranger to the wilderness (Luke 1:80)
- Had the appearance and actions of a prophet (Mark 1:4-6)
- Confronted people with their sin and called them to repentance (Luke 3:7-14)
- Baptized Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17)

**Day One (19-28)**

John the Baptist is the first witness called by the apostle John to testify about Jesus Christ (19)

There had been no prophet or word from God in 400 years. When John the Baptist started drawing crowds and baptizing people, the religious leaders in Jerusalem sent a delegation to investigate who he was (19).

<b>Religious Leaders</b> <b><i>“Who do you think you are?”</i></b>	<b>John the Baptist</b> <b><i>“I am a witness for Jesus”</i></b>
“Who are you? (19)	<i>“I am not the Christ” (20)</i>
“Are you Elijah?” (21)	<i>“I am not” (21)</i>
“Are you the Prophet?” (21)	<i>“No” (21)</i>
“What do you say about yourself?” (22)	<i>“I am a voice” (23)</i>
“Why are you baptizing?” (25)	<i>“I baptize with water but one greater than me will baptize with the Spirit” (26-27)</i>

## **Day Two (29-34)**

“Behold” is a favorite word of the apostle John to call attention to something (29).

Jesus is the Lamb of God, the substitute sacrifice for sin (29).

Sin, rather than sins, speaks of the totality of the world’s sin rather than a number of individual sins.

Jesus takes away the sin of the world, not just of one group of people (Jews).

John the Baptist recognized Jesus’ superiority (30).

John the Baptist did not know Jesus’ true identity prior to his baptism (31-33).

John the Baptist fulfilled his purpose by telling people that Jesus was the Son of God (34).

## **Day Three (35-37)**

John the Baptist pointed his own followers to Jesus (35-36).

The disciples left John to follow Jesus (37).

## **Application**

Ordinary people can have an extraordinary witness.

We are to be humble and point people to Jesus rather than call attention to ourselves.

We are to be a voice telling others about Jesus.

Who can you point to Jesus this week?