

April 23, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The Gospel of John // S1 E3 When the Man Comes Around
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John 1:6-9

◦ *There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.* ◦ *He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.* ◦ *He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.* ◦ *The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*

When we cease coming to God as beings primarily intent upon fulfilling our own personal hopes and desires but rather present ourselves to him as followers, dare I say children admiring, asking, observing, there we enter the realm of the living God.

Who was John the Baptist?

- John the Baptist was related to Jesus.
- Sent by God to announce Jesus coming as foretold in Malachi 3:1
- John baptized Jesus in Matt 3:13-16
- John was beheaded by Herod in Matt 14
- No other purpose than making Jesus known.

John the Baptist is the archetypal Christ follower, whose life purpose it is to radically define themselves as a sent witness to God's light in the world so that others might believe.

Vs. 6 *There came a man who was **sent** from God; his name was John.* ◦ *He came as a **witness** to testify concerning that **light**, so that through him all men might believe.*

- **Sent:**
 - Who sends you matters.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:20** *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*
- **Testifying-Witness**
 - God only sends witnesses and the more you follow the more you will witness.
 - **Antonyms of Witness:** ignore, disregard, neglect, pass over
- **Concerning the light**
 - **φωτός: phōtos**—From an obsolete phao (to shine or make manifest, especially by rays; compare phaino, phemi); luminousness (in the widest application, natural or artificial, abstract or concrete, literal or figurative) -- fire, light.
 - Light is invisible without substantive matter to reveal it.
 - You are that substantive matter.

Questions for Small Groups:

1. John only sought to make Christ known. How much does seeking our own purposes get in the way of what God might be wanting to do in our life.
2. Pastor Adam said that when being sent, who sent you matters. What rights or responsibilities are conferred upon those sent by God?
3. Do you live as one being sent by God? If not, why?
4. Do you often live as a witness to God's light? If so, how?
5. Where and to whom is God sending you?