

CROSSWISE:

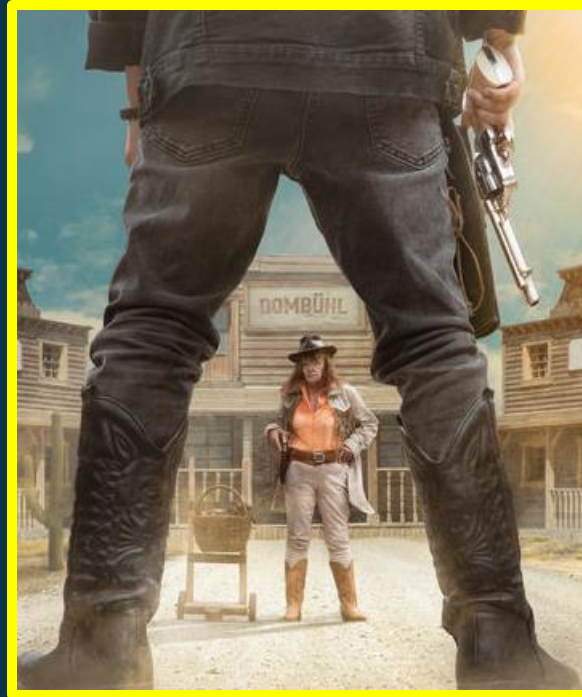
A Study of the
Gospel of John

The Sent Man
John 1:15-34





**The
Puzzling
Man**



**The
Showdown**



The ONE



The Puzzling Man

⁶ God sent a man, John the Baptist, ⁷ to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony.



The Puzzling Man

1. Related to Jesus
2. Foretold
3. Radical



The Puzzling Man

John grew up and became strong in spirit. And he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel

Luke 1:80



The Puzzling Man

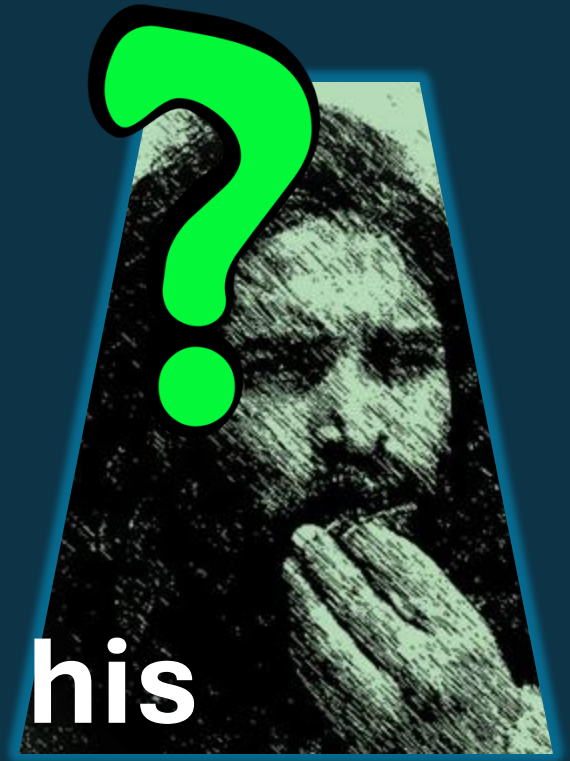
⁴ John's clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John.

Matt 3

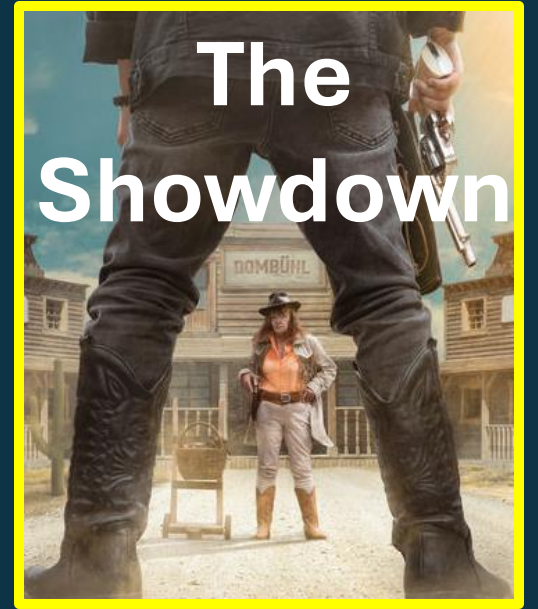


The Puzzling Man

- Who taught John the scriptures?
- How did he come to know his purpose?
- At what point did he go rogue?
- John, a witness, really?



**¹⁹ This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."
²¹ "Well then, who are you?" they asked.
"Are you Elijah?"
"No," he replied.**



“Are you the Prophet we are expecting?”

“No.”

22 “Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?” 23 John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah: “I am a voice shouting in the wilderness,



‘Clear the way for the Lord’s coming!’” ²⁴ Then the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ asked him, “If you aren’t the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?” ²⁶ John told them, “I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize.



**27 Though his ministry follows mine,
I'm not even worthy to be his slave
and untie the straps of his sandal.”**
**28 This encounter took place in
Bethany, an area east of the Jordan
River, where John was baptizing.**



- Each party sent a ringer.
- “You got no right!”
- “And you got no clue.”
- “Wrong question . . . It’s not about who I am, but who has been and is.”



“The religious leaders wanted to know who John was, and he wasn’t really interested in answering that question. He wanted to talk about his mission: to prepare the way for the Messiah.” - David Guzik



29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 He is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’ 31 I did not



recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.”
³² Then John testified, “I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. ³³ I didn’t know he was the one, but when God sent me to



baptize with water, he told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God."



Contrast of Pharisees to John.

- Both convicted of the need for Messiah.
- John was empowered by God, Pharisees by Jerusalem.
- Both concerned about preparing for His coming.



Contrast of Pharisees to John.

- John sees the lamb of God who redeems the world. Pharisees long for a king to establish Judah.
- John knew who the Messiah was and identified him.



**John clinched his witness with this:
“I watched the Spirit, like a dove
flying down out of the sky, making
himself at home in him. I repeat, I
know nothing about him except this:
The One who authorized me to
baptize with water told me, ‘The
One on whom you see the Spirit**



come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ That’s exactly what I saw happen, and I’m telling you, there’s no question about it: *This* is the Son of God.”

John 1:32-34 (Message)



About John's Baptism

John's baptism required the admittance of a total need. Gentiles were baptized to become a proselyte. The Pharisees saw themselves above such. They had the Law.



About John's Baptism

John's baptism demonstrated the humble willingness to repent, be cleansed, and prepare for the coming Messiah. Yet John's baptism gave nothing to help someone keep clean.





The Take Aways

**Why is it so easy to
miss the point?**





The Take Aways

**Secret to humility is
not to criticize self
but to recognize
Jesus' greatness.**





The Take Aways

There is something quite special about Jesus and John knew it. Do you?

