

Luke 3:1-20

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

John the Baptist was also a pioneer / trailblazer
(perhaps didn't have the most obvious claim to greatness)

- Born into a humble home to elderly parents
- Orphaned at a young age
- Was of no fixed abode and lived a solitary life in the wilderness
- Existed on a diet of mainly wild honey and locusts
- Dressed himself in camel skins
- Lived in obscurity for most of his life
- Was executed at a young age (31/32)

Luke 7:24-28

24 After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 25 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. 26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

28 I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

5 most followed Instagram accounts

- Cristiano Ronaldo: 586 million followers
- Lionel Messi: 464 million followers
- Selena Gomez: 418 million followers
- Kylie Jenner: 391 million followers
- Dwayne Johnson: 381 million followers

5 most followed Twitter accounts

- Elon Musk: 133 million followers
- Barack Obama: 132 million followers
- Justin Bieber: 113 million followers
- Katy Perry: 108 million followers
- Cristiano Ronaldo: 108 million followers

What was special about John the Baptist?

Vs 4-6 quote from Isaiah 40 which is a prophecy written about John 700 years before he was born

Luke 1 birth of John foretold

John was the man for the moment at a turning point in history. Pioneer of a new way centred on Jesus that would become the biggest and most powerful movement in history

“Without doubt, John the Baptist was a profound influence upon the people of his day and upon the birth and growth of the Church. His prophetic passion and burning zeal set the stage for the emergence of Jesus Christ.”

Remember Jesus words in Luke 7:28

“I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”



- Prepared

- Prepared
- Preached

- Prepared
- Preached
- Pointed to Jesus

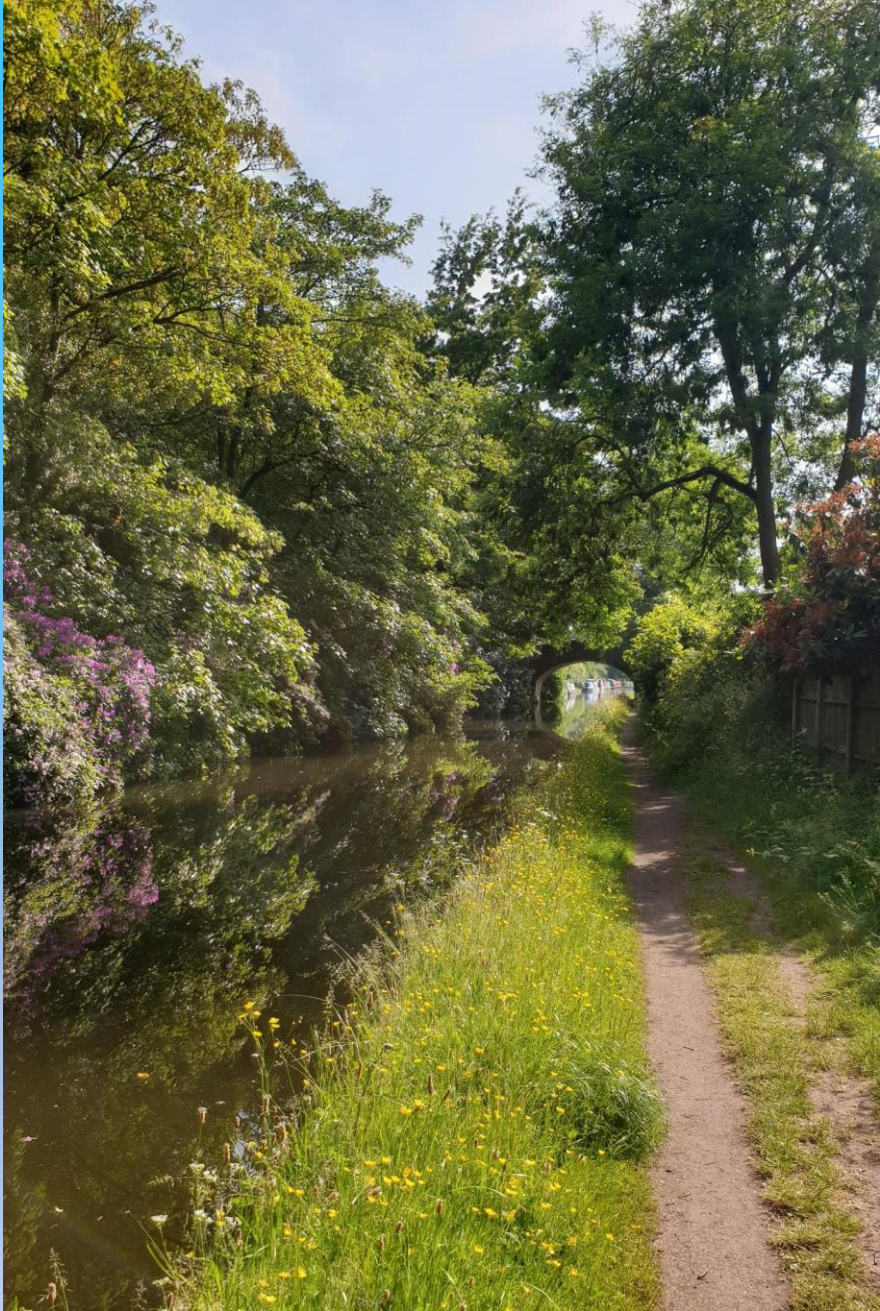
Prepared

V2 “...the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness

To be pioneers of the gospel we must be prepared

Luke 21:37

Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives



1 Peter 3:15


“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have”

Preached

V3 “He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins

To be pioneers of the gospel we must share the gospel with others

**Preach the Gospel
at all times and
when necessary,
use words.**

St. Francis of Assisi 



SILENT
WITNESS

V18 “And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them”

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1 Peter 3:15

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have”

2 Timothy 4:2

“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season”

Pointed to Jesus

V 15&16 “The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

To be pioneers of the gospel we must point people to Jesus

John 1:29 & 35-37

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!

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” 37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.”

John 12:32

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”