

## A Voice in the Wilderness



David Wilkerson (1931-2011) August 14, 2019

John the Baptist defined his ministry bluntly and simply when he said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness” (John 1:23). This servant of the Most High who, according to the Scripture, was the greatest “among those born of women” (Matthew 11:11), was the finest, most blessed of all the prophets and a revered preacher of righteousness.

The crowds flocked to hear John’s scorching messages, and many were baptized and became his disciples. Some thought he was Christ and others considered him to be Elijah raised from the dead. But through all this, John refused to be exalted or promoted. He was emptied of self-serving and he continually withdrew from center stage.

In his own eyes, this greatest of all prophets was not worthy to be called a man of God — only a voice. A wilderness voice, in fact, modest, retiring and unconcerned about honor. He considered himself unworthy to even touch his Master’s shoes. His entire life was devoted to “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). What a powerful rebuke to us, in this age of promotion of personalities, influence-grabbing, ego-tripping, and honor seeking. John could have had it all, but he cried out, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

The secret of John’s happiness was that his joy was not in his ministry or his work, nor in his personal usefulness or widespread influence. His pure joy was to stand in the presence of the Bridegroom, rejoicing in his voice.

All around Christians are saying, “I want God to use me. I want my life to count for the Lord. I want to serve him in a full-time capacity.” While that is very commendable, it must come with a willingness to find joy and fulfillment in devoted communion with the Lord as well as in service.

Commit yourself to the high calling of God in Christ on your life, faithfully living for him and telling others about the Lamb of God. The greatest rewards will probably go to those who are hidden and unknown, glorifying the Lord by their simple witness to his faithfulness.

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