

The GOAT list (Greatest Of All Time) – Growth Group Study John Malcolm – 21/2/2021

Who do you consider to be the greatest ...

Sports person?

Writer?

Musician?

Actor?

... of all time

How might you judge greatness in these fields

The most books/albums/tickets sold?

The most followers on Facebook or most votes/likes?

Longevity of interest, records held?

Pages on Wikipedia or most accessed page?

Talent, strength or influence?

John the Baptist had a significant ministry that attracted a lot of attention. The spiritual revival he led had such an impact that the authorities in Jerusalem sent a delegation to assess if he was an expected spiritual figure.

Read John 1.19-21, Deuteronomy 18.15, Malachi 4.5, Isaiah 11.1-5

- Who were the three spiritual figures they were looking for?
- Why was each of these important and expected in Judaism?

Read John 1.22-23, Isaiah 40.3

- Who does John claim to be?
- How does this link in with John 1.6?

Read John 1.24-25, Matt 3.7-9

- Why do the Pharisees focus on their three figures and seem to ignore the figure Isaiah prophesied would come?

It seems the authorities could not place John's person, message, mission or his focus on baptism in their spiritual worldview.

- Why might John's command to repent and be baptised have been a threat to the religious authorities?

Read John 1.26-27, Luke 3.16-17

- How did John describe the work of the Messiah?
- Why might the mission of Jesus be even more challenging to the authorities than the mission of John the Baptist?

Read John 1.29-34

- How did John identify Jesus?
- What are the titles John used to describe Jesus and what do they reveal to us?
- How do these ideas contribute towards our understanding of Jesus being the *Greatest Of All Time*, the most significant person to have lived?

There are things we learn from John that can change our lives. 1) John was faithful to what God had called him to do. Each of us needs to follow this example and do what God has called us to do. 2) John pointed towards Jesus. Each of us needs to do the same.

- How might what we do and say act as signs pointing towards Jesus?

For personal reflection:

What condition am I in to be a sign pointing towards Jesus?

What can I do or say to humbly point people towards Jesus?