

## Live Fully the Life You're Given

4G: John, the Maverick Gospel (Message 2)

1:6-8, 19-28; 3:22-36

### Questions for John the Baptizer

*"Then who are you?"* (1:21 NIV)

*"What do you say about yourself?"* (1:22 NIV)

*Why do you do that then if you're not them?* (1:25 paraphrase)

### His Response

#### 1. I know who I am.

- a. *John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" John 1:23 (NIV)*
- b. *"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." John 1:26-27 (NIV)*
- c. *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. John 1:6-7 (NIV)*

**When I know who I am, then I live with purpose.**

#### 2. I know who I am not.

- a. *He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." John 1:20-21 (NIV)*
- b. *Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John 1:24-25 (NIV)*

**When I know who I am not, then I live with courage.**

#### 3. I live for what I do.

- a. *To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who*

*attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less. John 3:27-30 (NIV)*

- b.** *He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. Luke 1:14-15 (NIV)*

**When I live for what I do, then I have joy.**

**4. I'll die doing what I've done.**

- a.** **Making things straight.** *'Make straight the way for the Lord.'* John 1:23 (NIV)
- b.** **Calling for life change.** *And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Mark 1:4 (NIV)*
- c.** **Telling the truth.** *This was before John was put in prison. John 3:24 (NIV). See Matthew 14:3-12.*

**When I die doing what I've done, then I have completeness.**

**The result of fully living the life you've been given is Jesus' respect.**

*After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 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.*

*But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'*

*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." Luke 7:24-28 (NIV)*