

Introduction

1. Between the Old and New Testaments there was a period of about four hundred years of silence from God
 - a. In other words, no new prophecy or prophets (cf. [Am. 8:11-14](#))
2. The silence was broken at the announcement of John's birth ([Lk. 1:11-17](#))
 - a. John was prophesied to come and did come ([Isa. 40:3-5](#); [Mal. 3:1, 4:5-6](#))
3. John is called the Baptist because he baptized ([Mk. 1:4-5](#))
 - a. He was not a member of the church, nor did he start one
 - b. We can safely call him John the Baptizer or Immerser with the same meaning but more clarity

I. John's Boldness

1. John was unafraid to preach the truth to the multitudes ([Lk. 3:1-14](#))
 - a. A prophet risen ([Lk. 3:1-2](#))
 - b. His message was from God ([Lk. 3:3-6](#); [Isa. 40:3-5](#))
 - c. Repentance demanded ([Lk. 3:7-14](#))
2. John was unafraid to preach the truth to Herod Antipas ([Mk. 6:17-20](#))
 - a. It cost him his physical life ([Mk. 6:21-29](#))
 - b. If Herod Antipas and Herodias did not repent, it cost them their spiritual life

II. John's Humility

1. John understood who he was and who Christ was ([Jn. 1:19-37](#))
 - a. "I am not the Christ" ([Jn. 1:20](#))
 - i. Compare this with [Mt. 24:4-5](#); [Ac. 5:36-37](#)
 - b. John denied he was literally the Christ, Elijah, and that Prophet ([Jn. 1:20-21](#))
 - i. He came in the spirit and power of Elijah ([Lk. 1:13-17](#); cf. [1 Kgs. 18:21-22](#); [Mal. 4:5-6](#); [Mt. 17:1-13](#))
 - ii. "that Prophet" ([Dt. 18:15-19](#); cf. [Jn. 6:14](#), [7:40](#))
 - c. The voice of one crying in the wilderness ([Jn. 1:23](#); [Isa. 40:3](#))
 - i. Pride prevents the message from being taught ([2 Tim. 4:3-4](#), [3:1-5](#))
 - d. John showed great humility toward the Christ ([Jn. 1:27](#), [30](#), cf. [Jn. 1:15](#))

- i. Not even worthy to do the lowest of the low tasks such as unloose His sandal strap
- ii. preferred (*ginomai* G1096) *to become*, i.e., *to come into existence, begin to be, receive being*: absol., [Jn. 1:15, 30](#) (Thayer 115)
 1. Cannot be referring to physical birth (cf. [Lk. 1:24-31](#))
 2. Reference to the honor, glory, and reverence Christ should and must receive over John (cf. [Jn. 1:27](#))
- e. Like John, we need to point others to the Christ ([Jn. 1:29, 35-37](#))
2. John understood the need to decrease and for Christ to increase ([Jn. 3:22-31](#))
 - a. No pride displayed by John in those coming to Jesus
 - b. “He must increase, but I *must* decrease” ([Jn. 3:30](#))
 - i. cf. [Php. 1:21](#); [Gal. 2:20](#); [Col. 3:4](#)

Conclusion

1. John coupled boldness with humility and showcased the fear of the LORD
2. Jesus Christ spoke highly of John ([Lk. 7:28](#); cf. [Mt. 11:11](#))