

# How Could We Be Greater than John?

Luke: All Things New



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 7:28



## Big Idea

If you have repented of your sin and received by faith what Jesus accomplished for you on the cross, then you are in the kingdom of God, and, no matter how little, how unimportant, how insignificant you feel, in Jesus' estimation, you are greater than John.

### (1) We Have a Greater Revelation

Jesus, in private discussion with His disciples, says: "To you it has been given to know the secrets [mysterion] of the kingdom of heaven . . . [B]lessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it" (Matt 13:11, 16–17).

John is on the side of those in the dark. We're not told that he ever heard Jesus' preaching. Nor are we told that he ever saw Jesus' miracles. He would die without an understanding of the mysteries entailed in: Jesus' death for sinners on the cross; His resurrection from the dead as ultimate victory; the outpouring of the Spirit; the second coming of the Lord; the final judgment on the last day. All these things would be lost on him. O but not for us! We have a greater revelation.

### (2) We Have a Greater Salvation

Now, I need to be careful here, because I am not saying that OT saints are saved in a different way than NT believers—and our way now is greater. No! We are all saved by grace through faith in the work of the Messiah. But our salvation is greater in the sense that our understanding and experience of it is deeper, fuller, richer now on the other side of the cross.

The OT is earthy, physical—with its kings, its animal sacrifices, its temple complex, its Holy Land, etc.. But in all these things God is trying to get at deeper spiritual realities—realities that will ultimately be brought to light in Christ. That's why the author of Hebrews says that, though OT saints were saved by grace through faith in their shadowy understanding of the Messiah, "apart from us they should not be made perfect" (Heb 11:40b).

### (3) We Have a Greater Commission

At first such a statement might sound crazy. But think about this with me. John is called to point to Jesus from the side of promise. We get to point to Jesus from the side of fulfillment. John could speak of Jesus as the Christ. But only we can speak of Jesus on the cross. John could call people to repent. But we get to call people, not only to repent, but also to receive all that Jesus has accomplished for them. John was called to baptize in water. But we get to see people baptized by the Spirit of God. John was sent to the nation of Israel. But we are sent to the ends of the earth! Now you tell me: Which commission is greater?!

## Reflection Questions



- Before reading Luke 7:28 and listening to this sermon, how would you have answered the question: "Who do you think God would consider greater in His kingdom—John the baptist or you?" Explain. How has your answer now changed?
- Using Scripture, what other reasons could you give for why we are truly greater than John?
- Why do you think Jesus makes this statement in the first place, and what difference does it make for you? How will knowing these things now affect your coming week?