

- I. John wants to know for sure that Jesus is the Messiah
  - A. John found himself in a depressing situation
  - B. John experienced unmet expectations
  - C. John openly expressed his doubt
- II. Jesus gives John definitive evidence that he is Messiah
  - A. Jesus demonstrated the power and work of the Messiah

“The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me.” (John 10:25)

- B. Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah

“In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.” (Isaiah 29:18)

- C. Jesus preached the gospel of the Messiah

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.” (Isaiah 61:1)

- D. Jesus promises blessing to those who will believe in him

- III. Jesus commends the greatness of John
  - A. John was a man of solid conviction
  - B. John was a man of self-denial

“He must become greater; I must become less.” (John 3:30)

- C. John was a prophet sent by God
- D. John prepared the way for the Messiah to come

“A voice of one calling: ‘In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.’” (Isaiah 40:3)

- E. John prepared people to enter into the Kingdom of God

- IV. Jesus knows the response of the people
  - A. Many were prepared through John’s baptism to trust in Jesus
  - B. The religious leaders were not prepared and rejected God’s plan for them

- V. Jesus confronts the fickle crowd
  - A. They are compared to children who can never be satisfied
  - B. They rejected John for his message of sternness & judgment
  - C. They rejected Jesus for his message of grace & love
  - D. Those who follow Jesus are children of wisdom