



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
R O C H E S T E R

Sermon Discussion Guide
May 24, 2026

Refresh

Read Matthew 3:1-6 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss

In Matthew 11:11, Jesus said, “Among those born of women, there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.” What qualities or characteristics in John’s life and ministry help explain why Jesus would say this? How does this help us understand how God views greatness compared to how the world views it?

Pastor Mark emphasized that John was a herald who boldly proclaimed God’s Word. Why is faithful preaching still essential for the church today? What are some dangers or consequences when preaching is replaced with entertainment or self-help messages?

Isaiah 40 describes John as the one preparing the way for the Lord. What are some obstacles that tend to keep people from receiving Christ fully? In what ways can we help prepare the way for the Lord in the lives of those around us?

John the Baptist’s life reflected simplicity and separation from worldly comforts. In what ways might we learn from his example as it relates to the significance, or possibly the insignificance, of worldly comforts in light of eternity? How might worldly comforts distract us from what is most important?

Pastor Mark connected the repeated message of repentance from John the Baptist, to Jesus, to Peter, and to Paul. Why is repentance central to the gospel message, and how would you explain true repentance to an unbeliever?

John’s ministry was entirely focused on preparing people for Jesus rather than drawing attention to himself. What are some ways we, as believers today, can point others to Christ instead of seeking recognition or influence for ourselves? What rhythms can we establish in our lives to help lead our hearts toward this way of living?