

III. BE WILLING TO **DIE** FOR JESUS (14:5-13)

A. **All** Christians are to die **daily** for Jesus.

“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” Luke 9:23

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

B. **Some** Christians will die **physically** for Jesus.

“37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.” Hebrews 11:37-38

“9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

Revelation 6:9-10

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. Revelation 20:4

ARE YOU LIVING A GREAT LIFE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD?

“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord,...” Luke 1:15a

THE GREATEST (John The Baptist) The Greatness Of John’s Courage Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. In sports there’s an acronym used to describe the greatest of all time. It’s the phrase “G.O.A.T.” It stands for the GREATEST OF ALL TIME. It is common for fans to argue over who is the greatest of all time in the various sports. But whose the greatest person ever born...the G.O.A.T. when it comes to everyone who has ever lived? Well, in this area there is no debate. Jesus made it clear that John the Baptist was “THE GREATEST,” the true G.O.A.T.

“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he” Matthew 11:11

B. What made John stand out that Jesus singled him out as the greatest? There were seven great qualities that made John so great. In THE GREATEST teaching series you will learn how to live a great life by adding John’s seven qualities to your life.

This eight part series features the following messages:

Aug 25	Who Was John The Baptist?
Sep 1	The Greatness Of John’s Parents
Sep 8 AM	The Greatness Of John’s Dedication
Sep 8 PM	The Greatness Of John’s Message
Sep 15	The Greatness Of John’s Obedience
Sep 22	The Greatness Of John’s Humility
TODAY	The Greatness Of John’s Courage
Oct 6	The Greatness of John’s Burning And Shining Light

God has called all of us to greatness so plan now to attend this series as much as possible.

C. **Text:** Matthew 14:1-13 (Pew Bible/Page 960/New Test.)

THE GREATNESS OF JOHN'S COURAGE

I. STAND FOR THE WORD (14:1-4)

A. Stand for the Word in salvation.

"1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."

3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' " Mark 1:1-3

"29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

30 This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" John 1:29-30

B. Stand for the Word in sexuality.

"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." Hebrews 13:4

"You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness." Leviticus 18:16

"If a man takes his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They shall be childless." Leviticus 20:21

II. SUFFER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS (14:3)

A. Suffer for God.

"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." II Timothy 3:12

"14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,"

I Peter 3:14-18⁵

B. Suffer for God's glory.

"12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."

I Peter 4:12-16

"11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11-12