

Series: Renegade

Message: John the Baptist—When Life Gets Real...

July 1, 2012

A renegade does not settle for average or the common but goes against the norm in pursuit of God's best.

John: The end of an era.

Isaiah 40; John 1; Matthew 3, Luke 3; Luke 7; Matthew 11; Mark 6

The pursuit of God's best will Bless Your Life.

Luke 1:15, 65-66, 3:7a; John 1:29-34; 3:29

The pursuit of God's best will Cost Your Life.

Luke 3:19-20; Luke 11:1-19; Mark 6:14-26; Matthew 16:24-28

The pursuit of God's best will Bear Fruit.

Luke 3:10-14; Matthew 3:5-6; Matthew 11:1-19; John 15:1-8

The pursuit of God's best will Magnify God.

John 1; 3:30; Luke 7:11-17

Am I pursuing the blessing rather than the One who blesses?

NEXT STEPS

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation. Join with someone and continue to grow by using these study questions this week.

This week we talked about John the Baptist. Do you ever feel like John where you've done the right thing but it didn't lead to blessing?

What does God's blessing on your life look like?

Read Matthew 5:1-11. What are some things Jesus says about those who are blessed of God?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read James 1:1.

Culturally for the Jewish people, being in the land meant you were in right relationship with God and blessed. To be outside the land meant you were not blessed. James wants to challenge that mindset.

Read James 1:1-12 and keep in mind the context of asking God for wisdom in understanding why we're undergoing trials.

Why would we consider it joy when we face trials?

What kind of fruit will faith produce?

Read Genesis 12:1-3. God begins to repair our broken relationship through Abraham's family. From this passage, what will Abraham be to others?

What will God do through Abraham toward all the nations?

TAKING IT HOME

Write down as many ways you can think of that God has blessed you so far this year. Spend some time thanking him for these blessings. Then ask how you can become a blessing to someone else this week

A principle we've learned from Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) is that God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. How can you use how God's blessed you to be a blessing to someone this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS