



John 1:19-34 Small Group Questions

- Who do the priests and Levites ask John who he is in verses 19-23, either implicitly or explicitly? Why do they ask him specifically whether he is one of these three figures?
- The Gospel of John doesn't give much background on John the Baptist, but Wesley discussed a little bit of his remarkable story. What do you know about John the Baptist's life?
- John's answers to the priests and Levites are short (and they get progressively shorter)! Why do you think he responds this way to such important people?
 - What do these responses, and the way he responds, say about his character?
 - When the priests and Levites finally get frustrated, what does he tell them? Why do you think he says this?
- What do you notice about John's perception of himself in verses 23-27?
 - Wesley noticed that, given the thousands of people that John was speaking to, gathering, and baptizing in the desert, we might expect John to have a really high view of himself. But he doesn't. Instead, he says that he is not worthy even to untie Jesus' sandals. What does this mean, and what does it say about John's view of himself?
 - Do you have a similar view of yourself?

- How do we, like John, maintain a posture of humility in the midst of success?
- What does it look like to point others to Jesus even as we climb the ladder, receive promotions, and interact with important people?
- How do you distinguish ambition that's focused on the self from ambition that's focused on Christ?
- Wesley preached that while John has a low view of his own importance, he has as high a view of Jesus' importance as someone can have. What clues do we see in verses 29-34 that tell us *why* he has this high view of Jesus?
 - Wesley then taught how anchoring our identities in Jesus' importance and majesty not only gives proper glory to God, but is actually good for us, too. Why is this?
 - What happens when our identities are rooted in our own self-perception rather than Jesus?
 - In what areas do you find yourself seeking identity instead of in Jesus?
 - Practically, how have you shifted identity from an area of your life to Jesus?