

John the Baptist Remembers

*What did you go into the desert to see? A weed swayed by the
Wind?... I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there
has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist
{Mathew 11;7-11}*

Those days were stern and harsh, dry, crackling days,
when summer's shining heat and winter's cold
both tanned my skin and purified my ways
till I was shaped and fashioned in God's mould.

I knew Him when He journeyed down the hill,
'Look! There!' I cried, 'The Lamb! The Lamb of God!'
I tremble when I recollect it still -
The dove, the awesome voice, the path He trod,
the thronging crowds, the scribes, the Pharisees,
the soldiers, and the tax collectors too,
who came to shed their sins and bow their knees,
I felt no squirming doubt; my words were true!
And now I languish in this prison cell.
No glory here; no adulating throng;
no voice from heaven (rather cries from hell!)

Yet now I'm reassured; here I belong.
'He's doing all you said and even more!'
The brothers told me, glory yet aglow
within their eyes. 'He preaches to the poor,
the blind ones see, the deaf can hear - we know!
And then He drew a question to the crowd
like bones to yapping dogs, 'Who did you hear
proclaiming in the desert, strong and loud,
repentance and reform? A royal peer?
A charlatan, a fancy quack, a fool?
A prophet even? No - far more than this!
For none who serve and none of those who rule
has ever had a greater role than his!'

So now I rest content; my task is done;
God called on me to introduce His Son;
Whatever Herod has in store for me,
I know I've been a part of history!

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About Dr Barry Chant

Barry Chant is Senior Pastor of the Wesley International Congregation in Sydney, Australia. He is a regular speaker at church services, seminars, conferences and conventions. Hundreds of thousands of his books have been sold around the world. He has degrees in arts, theology and ministry, a diploma in education and a PhD in history. He was the initiator and former president of Tabor College, Australia.

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