



* Prayers Anchored in the
Gospel of John

Tuesday Day 9

* Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light, that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

* www.bcponline.org

* **The Collect**
Collecting your thoughts so you can focus
on God.

John 1 (NIV)

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders^[e] in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

 **Scripture**

* This is a time when you will think about the meaning of the passage. You might want to consult some commentaries or think about the passage from several different viewpoints until it becomes a part of you. Feel free to attempt to answer any questions you had yesterday.

As in the other Gospels, Jesus' ministry begins in the context of the Baptist's ministry (Mt 3:1-17 par. Mk 1:2-13 par. Lk 3:1-22). The emphasis is on the Baptist's testimony arising from this event (1:34). It is when the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God in the hearing of some of his disciples that they become his first followers (1:35-37). The Baptist had an extensive ministry quite apart from his testimony to Jesus (Mt 3; Lk 3; Josephus *Antiquities of the Jews* 18.116-19), but in John all of this is eclipsed. For John, the Baptist is a witness to Jesus and a model of true discipleship.

Rodney Whitacre - IVP New Testament Commentary

* **Meditation**

What is there in John the Baptist's life that we can emulate today as disciples of Jesus?

What do you think it would have been like to hear John the Baptist preach?

What does it mean to confess Christ in the way that John the Baptist did?

How did John the Baptist keep priorities straight - keep Jesus as the primary character in his story - instead of himself?

 **Meditation**

Maybe this prayer by Augustine is an appropriate way to pray if one were to become a disciple like John the Baptist:

Great art thou, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; great is thy power, and infinite is thy wisdom."And man desires to praise thee, for he is a part of thy creation; he bears his mortality about with him and carries the evidence of his sin and the proof that thou dost resist the proud. Still he desires to praise thee, this man who is only a small part of thy creation. Thou hast prompted him, that he should delight to praise thee, for thou hast made us for thyself and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in thee. (Augustine's Confessions)

 **Response**



* Thank all members of the Trinity that you have been given the right to become a child of God and that Jesus is your brother.

* Prayer

* **Psalm 121:7-8** The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

* **Blessing**