



\* Prayers Anchored in the  
Gospel of John

Day 16 - Monday

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*\*Online Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

## \*The Collect

Collecting your thoughts so you can focus  
on God.

John 1 (NIV)

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

<sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup> And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

<sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

 **Scripture**

\* This is a time when you will want to understand the passage and the original intent of the author. Feel free to read it several times and also to write down any questions you might have.

# \* Meditation

For instance:

How is it that John wouldn't know his cousin, Jesus, or have no idea of the stories surrounding his birth or Mary's knowledge that Jesus was to be the Messiah?

How long did John live in the desert? Did his mother and father die before he was very old? Is it possible that he was raised by the Essenes who lived in the same wilderness by Bethany?

Where did John meet "the one who sent me?" Did he have visions or maybe have an angelic visitor?

Did John the Baptist know only that he was to baptize with water until he saw the Spirit descend on one who was baptized or was more revealed to him?

How did John feel when his disciples followed Jesus the next day after his pronouncement, that Jesus was the Lamb of God?

Did you know that the birth of John is celebrated on June 24<sup>th</sup>, the day when the length of days decreases? And that we celebrate the birth of Jesus during the winter solstice, when the days begin to get longer?

“For we remember your amazing life,  
Where you laid down for us the form and pattern of  
Our love for Christ,  
Being so close to Him you were His twin.”

Excerpt from the poem, “St. John Baptist” by Thomas Merton

A great read about the pattern John the Baptist holds for discipleship is by David Rorher, “The Sacred Wilderness of Ministry” by IVP

 **Meditation**

1<sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

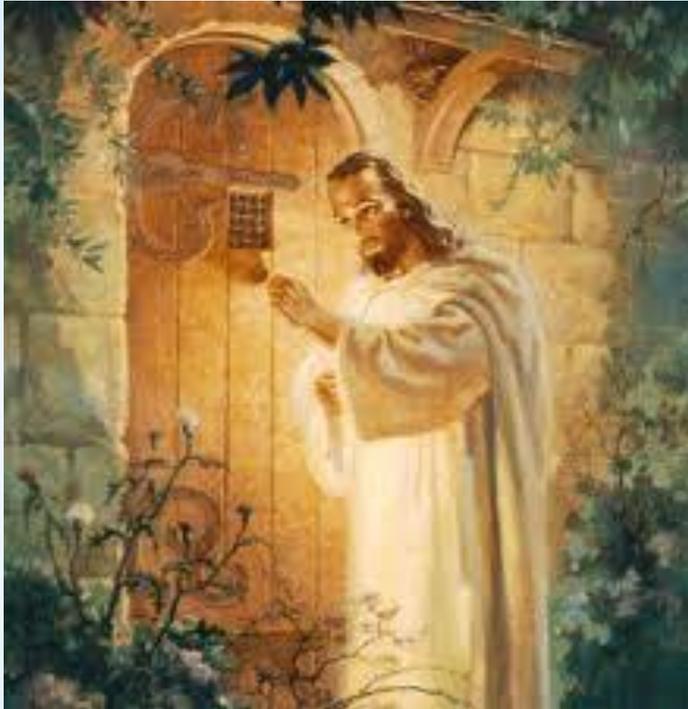
\* Have you ever thought of John the Baptist as a pattern for life? He had a significant number of disciples, even in other countries. Apollos is identified as one of disciples, baptizing in his baptism, in Acts 18. Yet, John would have all his followers forsake him for Jesus. Wouldn't the church be different if the only empire that mattered was the Kingdom of God? What if you lived as though your only reason for ministry was to reveal Jesus to our nation?

Len Thompson

\* **Meditation**

Father, could I be like John? Could I live with that level of humility that I know that even the thing You command me to do is not my right but a privilege I am unworthy to attempt? Can I let go of anything that I build as soon as Jesus needs something different? Can I decrease so that you will increase or will I work to protect the institution or ministries I serve? Father, I accept whatever part you ask me to play, including the exits from the stage. Amen. Len Thompson

 **Response**



\* Jesus came so that we could receive Him and open ourselves to have many conversations with Him. Take a few minutes to receive the presence of Jesus into your whole day. Ask for opportunities today to live humbly and to let go of anything that would compete with Jesus.

\* **Prayer**

\* True happiness is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy PURPOSE.”

— [Helen Keller, \*The Miracle Worker: Selected Works of Helen Keller\*](#)

\* *May you be blessed today with a great purpose; the purpose of revealing Christ and then letting him shine as you let go of everything else. Amen.*

\* **Blessing**