

John 1:29-42 - Whom do you imitate?

John the Baptist excelled in two vital qualities I lack. First, John unflinchingly told God's will to every audience. He seemed never to cower, not even when facing his head-severing ceremony. I pray God for that kind of courage. Too often, I blink and then attribute my cowardice to tact.

Second, John humbly pointed people to his successor Jesus. God gave John the signs so that he might know the Son of God's identity. Once he knew for certain who Jesus was, he directed others to him.

John attracted numerous followers, but he constantly shunted them "to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John's ego and pride dwindled behind his dedication to the truth of the Savior. I pray for that kind of humility. Still, my real role model can't be John; but Jesus. John displayed a good example. Jesus, lived the perfect model. Have you recently read *Matthew* chapters 5-7? There, Jesus explained and illustrated the lifestyle he expects of true believers.



Machaerus was a strategic fortress built east of the Dead Sea by Hasmonean king Alexander Jannaeus. Rebuilt by Herod the Great in 30 BC, it was the site of John the Baptist's imprisonment and execution by Herod Antipas.

Photo of model from [Biblical Archaeology Society](#).

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