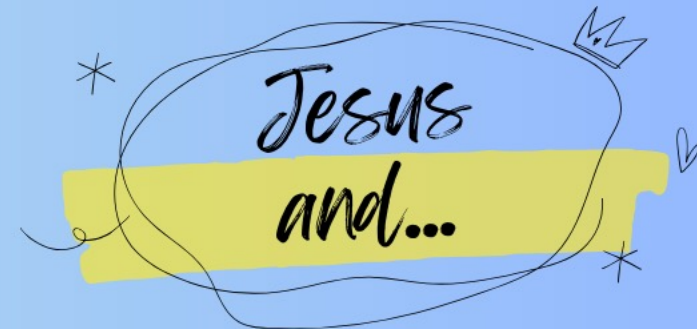


Jesus and... John the Baptist

John 1: 19-34 & John 3: 29-30



www.ebe.org.uk/talks



Name: John the Baptist

Parents: Elizabeth and Zechariah (very old)

Other notable relatives: Jesus Christ (cousin)

Address: The Wilderness

Occupation: Prophet/Warm up act/Baptiser

Favourite item of clothing: camel hair with a belt

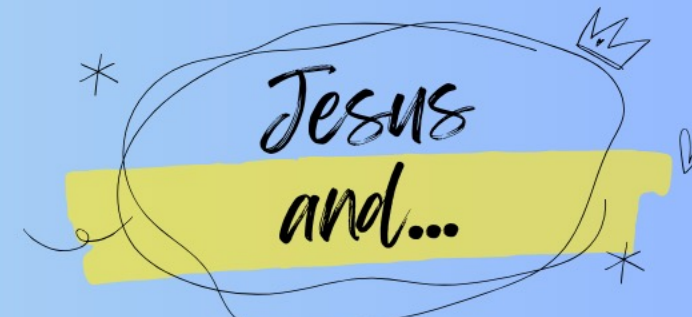
Favourite food: locusts and honey

Likes: straight talking **Dislikes:** hypocrites

Surprising fact: spent a significant amount of time in prison

Death: execution (sanctioned at a booze filled royal party)

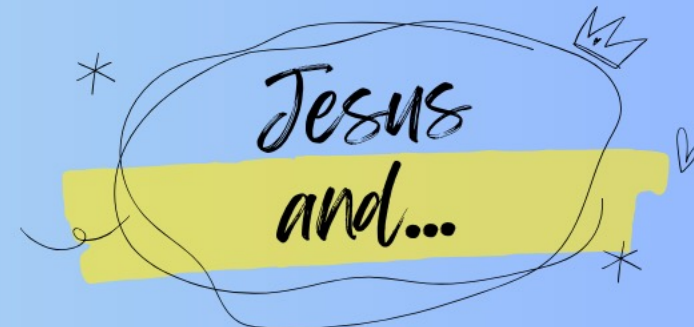
Famously said: “He must become greater;
I must become less.” (John 3:30)



Isaiah 40: 3

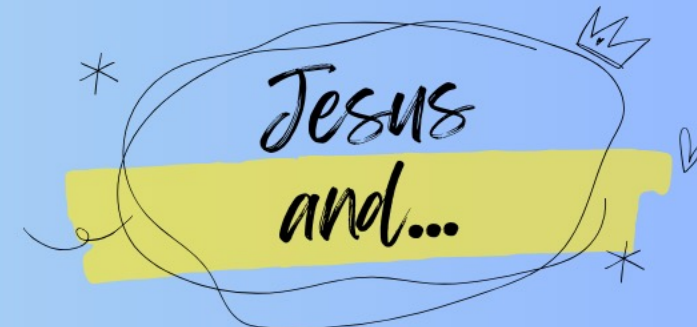
A voice of one calling:

'In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.



Jesus and... John the Baptist

1. In the womb
2. In person
3. In prison

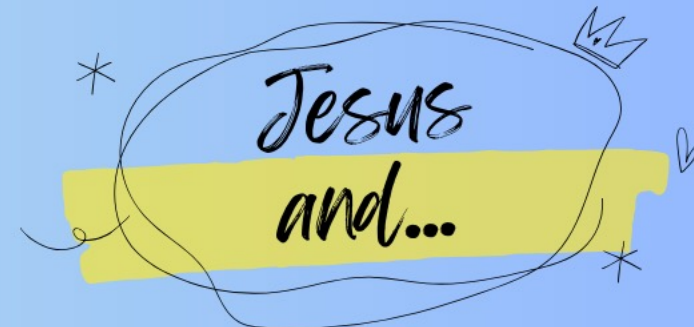


1. In the womb

Luke 1: 41 & 44

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

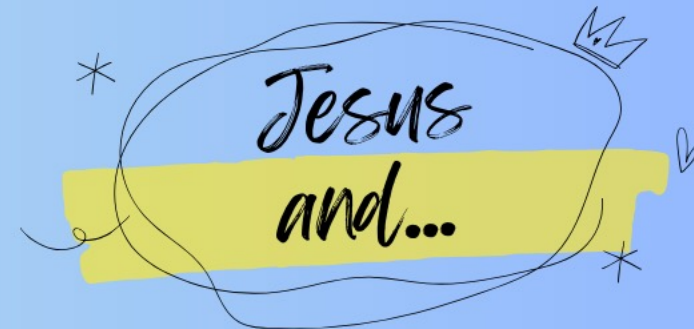


2. In person

John 1: 19-34

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders 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.'



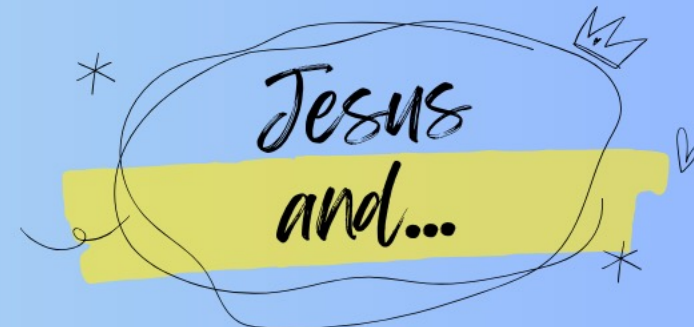
John 1: 19-34

‘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.”’

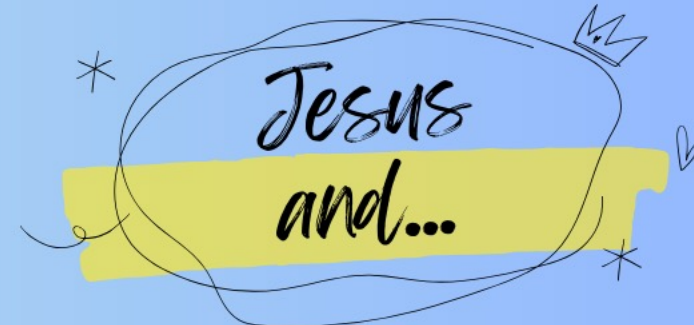


John 1: 19-34

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

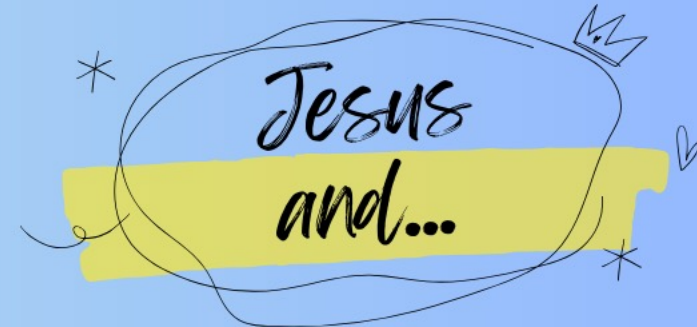
²⁶ ‘I baptise with water,’ John replied, ‘but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



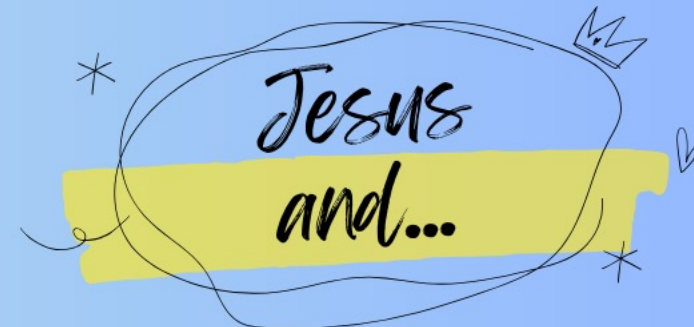
John 1: 19-34

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



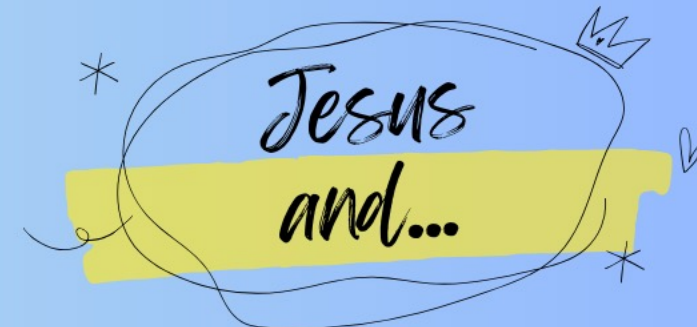
John 1: 19-34

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



John 3:29-30

²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.'

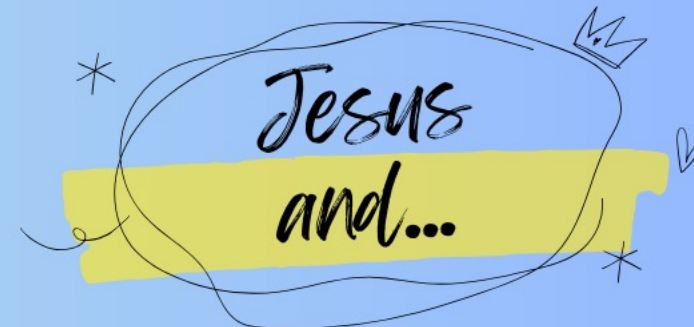


“I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

John 1:34

“He must become greater; I must become less.”

John 3:30

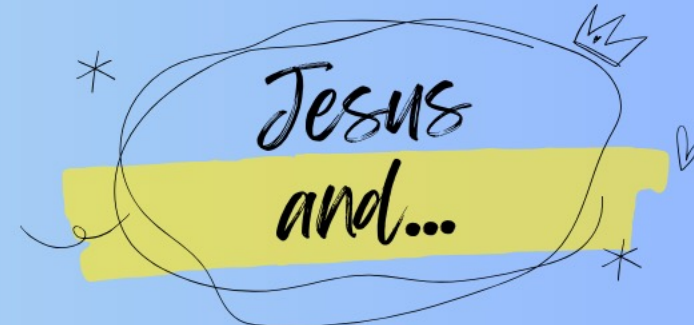


3. In prison

Matthew 11: 2-6

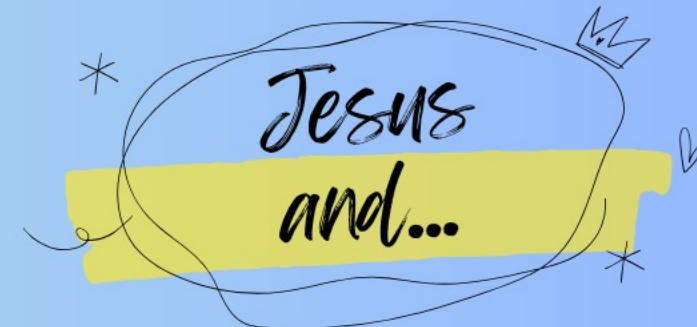
² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'

⁴ Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'



Mark 1: 15

Jesus: “The time has come... the kingdom of God has come near.”



What's going on for you right now? What is God saying to you/us?

“... the baby in my womb leaped for joy.” (Luke 1: 44)

Can you imagine being so aware and so sensitive to Jesus being close like that?

“He must become greater; I must become less.” (John 3:30)

“Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” (Mark 1: 15)

Can you believe in a God who loves you so much He encourages both confidence and questions?

