

# Ugh...Wasn't Expecting That: John the Baptist

**Life Steps** | December 1 & 2, 2018

## **Monday**

**Malachi 3:1**

This first week of Advent begins our celebration of Jesus coming to Earth. This verse speaks of how God knows exactly what we need and gives to us before we ask. Take a moment today and reflect on how God has served by providing for you in ways that were not expecting. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness.

## **Tuesday**

**Luke 3:16**

So much of our culture defines greatness by individual achievement, by working hard for your personal glory. What we learn from John the Baptist is the power in serving others. Reflect on an experience where someone served you in a way that you desperately needed. Ponder how different your life might have been if that person had not been there for you.

## **Wednesday**

**Luke 1:6-7**

Our timing often does not line up with God's timing. We pray for things and sometimes wonder if God hears our prayers. Sometimes we allow God's delay to lead us to lose faith, or to act in ways that are against God's will for us. This passage reminds us of the importance of being obedient as we wait to hear from God. Reflect on a time where you doubted God's faithfulness. How has that experience, as well as its outcome, shaped your understanding of God's faithfulness?

## **Thursday**

**Isaiah 55:6-9**

Sometimes we doubt God's faithfulness because we impose our behaviors, our characteristics on God. Or maybe we trust our worldly leaders to bring about God's will. In any case, God's perfect will surpasses our understanding, our brokenness. Take a moment today and reflect on the trials that God has brought you through. If you haven't done so already, begin a journal of gratefulness that focuses on how trustworthy God has been in your life.

## **Friday**

**Hebrews 6:10 | Matthew 6:3**

Sometimes we are guilty of doing the right thing for the wrong reasons. When we serve others for our own glory, or so that we will be noticed in our serving, we are doing something right, but for the wrong reasons. What we learn from Jesus is to serve just for the joy of serving. Who do you know that serves this way, that serves behind the scenes, and never desires attention for what they do?

## **Saturday**

**Psalms 46:10**

The frenetic nature of our lives makes the easiest spiritual discipline, stillness, the hardest one to exercise. Before we can serve others, we must be rooted in our relationship with God, seeking to hear from God first. Take some time this morning to be still and listen. Is there someone in your life that God has placed there so that you can serve them? Write their name down and begin to pray about how you can serve them.

## **Sunday**

**Psalms 146**

We serve a faithful, trustworthy, good God. As you prepare for worship today, take time to reflect on how God has been faithful to you this week. Remember your victories and bring them with you to worship. If you don't have victories this week, then take your struggles with you and bring them to worship as well.