

He is preferred before me  
John 1:19-28

In John 1:19-28, the Jews send a group to interrogate John the Baptist, who is experiencing remarkable success in his ministry. They ask three questions and he issues three denials. His answers to their questions make it clear the John's only motive is to point to Jesus Christ. He cares nothing of himself. John helps us to face our self-serving pride which hinder the work of God... our desires for the praises of men, our prayers to be exalted, our demands for our own ways, and our hope to receive honor for ourselves. Instead, John points away from himself and calls his interrogators to look to the Lamb of God for everything.

I. John's opportunity, v19

II. John's threefold denial, v20-21

1. The first denial - not the Christ
2. The second denial - not Elijah
3. The third denial - not the prophet

III. John reveals his identity, v22-23

IV. John's reason for baptizing, v24-27

V. The location of John's baptizing, v28

Applications: