



*"I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John."  
Luke 7:28a NIV*

**According to Jesus, why John the Baptist was the greatest:**

- ORIGINAL "What did you go out into the wilderness to see?" Luke 7:24b NIV
- RELIABLE "A reed swayed by the wind?" Luke 7:24c NIV
- AUTHENTIC "A man dressed in fine clothes?" Luke 7:25a NIV
- GOD'S TRUTH TELLER "What did you go out to see? A prophet?" Luke 7:26a NIV
- JESUS' FORERUNNER "I will send my messenger ahead of you..." Luke 7:27a NIV
- JESUS' BOOSTER "...who will prepare your way before you." Luke 7:27b NIV

**A Good Friend Is One Who**

- #1. Recognizes GOD'S APPROVAL as the best and only.  
*"When they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right." Luke 7:29 NIV*  
  
*"Does this sound as if I am trying to win human approval? No indeed. What I want is God's approval. Am I trying to please people? If I still wanted to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." Galatians 1:10 GNT/NCV*
- #2. Seeks GOD'S PURPOSE for themselves.  
*"The Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves." Luke 7:30 NIV*  
  
*"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28 NLT*  
  
*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 ESV*
- #3. Experiences the FULL RANGE OF EMOTIONS in living their life.  
*"They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: 'We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge and you did not cry.'" Luke 7:32 NIV*
- #4. Understands this life IN RELATION TO their heavenly life.  
*"Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." Luke 7:28b NIV*