

*And John preached saying, 'After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'* St Mark 1:7-8.

How do we find our identity? That is a question which seems to be haunting many in Western society in all sorts of ways. We talk about 'self-identifying', 'discovering who you are', and it can sometimes feel as if identity can be something to be chosen like a product from a supermarket shelf. St John the Baptist found his identity in faithfully pointing to Jesus Christ. Great things are about to unfold and his vocation is faithfully to prepare the ground.

The wonder and purpose that fills John's life is the potential of every human life, for he finds it in relation to the Lord to whom he points. We find our identity in answering God's call. We become who we are meant to be by responding to the God who calls us to life and the stories of our lives are made up of those choices to refuse or accept that gift. We must ask the question of ourselves, 'What can I do to point to the Lord Jesus?'