



Luke 1:13-17

What is Greatness?

What makes a man or woman 'great'?

Achievement?

Impact?

Notoriety?

Recognition?

Rank or Position?

Power & Influence?

Intellect?

Ability?

Wealth?

**John, whom God calls great,
has nothing that would bring the world
to the same conclusion.**

1. Consecration, v15a

John would drink neither wine nor strong drink.

This phrase is employed to describe John's life and character.

A temperate and sober lifestyle of self control, meagre existence, and a life far removed from all the frivolities and revelries of worldliness.

See also... Leviticus 10:8-11 & Proverbs 31:4-5

2. Sanctification, v15b

See also Jeremiah 1:4

John is one of a small number who received God's Spirit before birth;
not that he was born sinless, but that he was born with that vital and necessary agency of God's Spirit already at work within him.

3. Commission, v16-17

John will do what God has called him to do.

His task is to point others to Christ and his service will be marked out by humility.

Other references:

*John 1:6-8, Malachi 4:4-6, John 1:19-23,
Matthew 11:13-14, Luke 3:3, Matthew 3:2,
Luke 3:15-16, John 3:26-31*