LIFE IN THE WORD SERIES:

Bold As A Lion

(Facing Your Fears)

OCTOBER 21ST, 2026

Lesson Three:

Watered Down Convictions

Proverbs 28:1

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

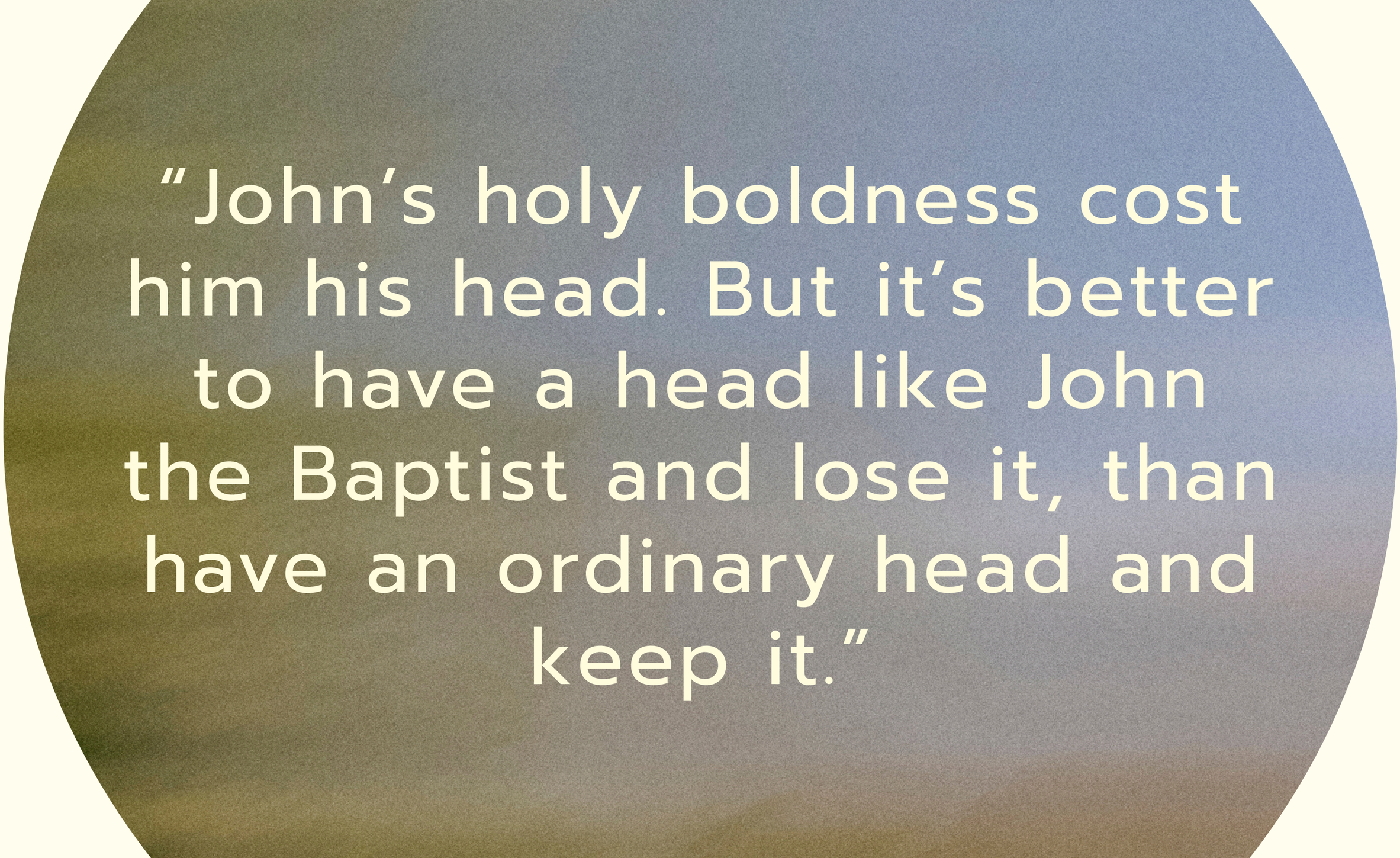
Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 11:7-12

As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments?

Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.


“John’s holy boldness cost him his head. But it’s better to have a head like John the Baptist and lose it, than have an ordinary head and keep it.”

Three Ways John the Baptist Showed Lion-Like Boldness:

1. He Spoke Truth to Power.
2. He had a Steadfast Purpose.
3. He had a Calm Conviction.

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John's Unwavering Convictions:

1. He Confronted Compromise.
2. He Preached Repentance.
3. He Challenged the Elite.
4. He Spoke Truth to Power

A “reed shaken by the wind” is a perfect metaphor for watered-down convictions—someone who bends, sways, and changes their stance depending on which way the cultural or political winds blow.

The phrase “watered-down convictions” generally refers to beliefs, values, or moral stances that have been weakened, compromised, or diluted over time.

Reasons Convictions are Watered-Down:

1. Social Conformity
2. Convenience
3. Pragmatism

Three Contributing Factors:

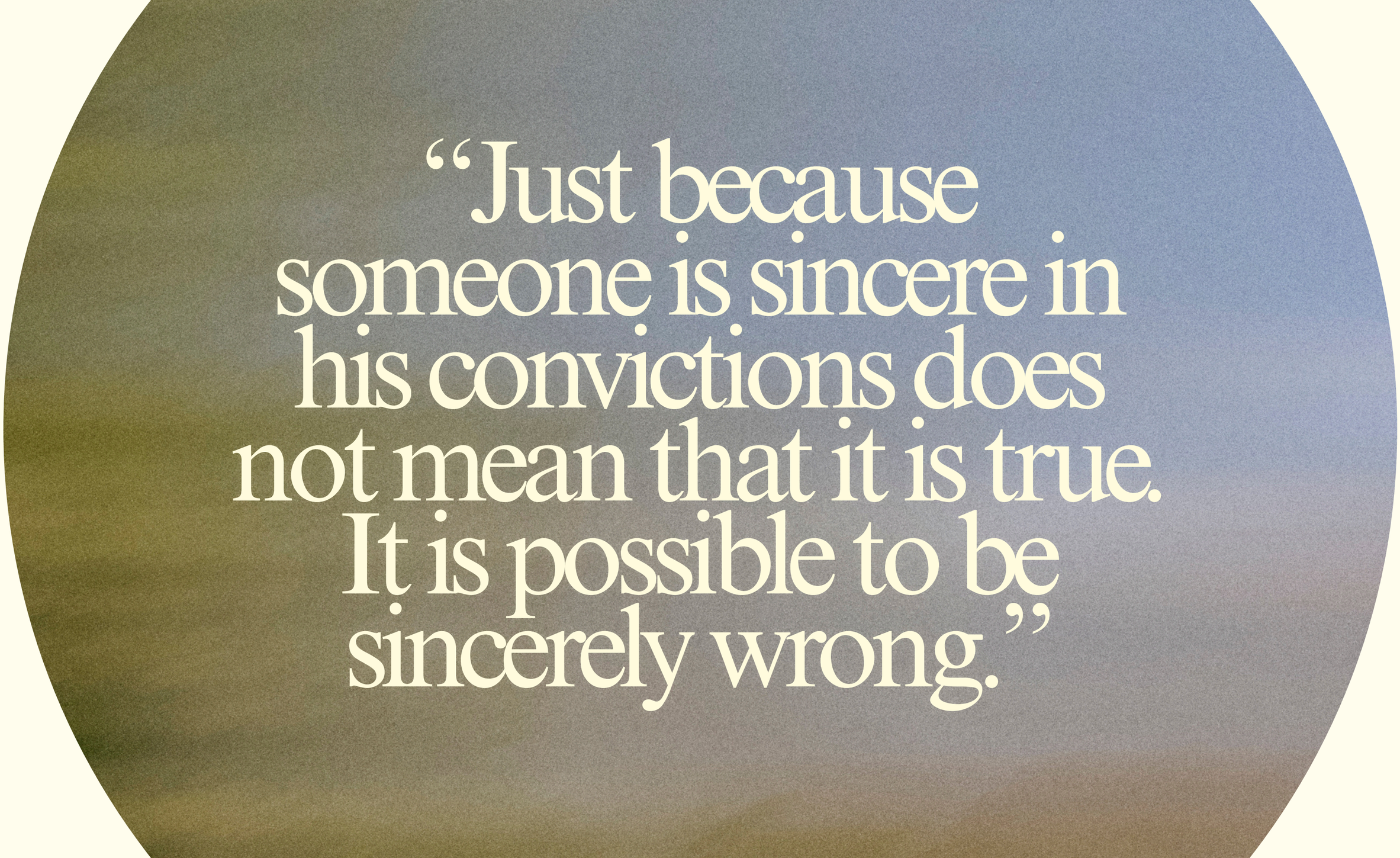
1. Fear of Criticism
2. Neglect of Spiritual Disciplines
3. A Desensitized Conscience

Jesus' Description of John the Baptist:

John was not a "reed swayed by the wind".

Eight Ways to Avoid Watered-down Convictions:

1. Establish the Bible as the Ultimate Authority.
2. Commit to the “Whole Counsel.”
3. Daily Ingestion of Scripture.
4. “Purpose in Your Heart” Ahead of Time.
5. Pre-decide Boundaries
6. Accept the Cost
7. Move from “Head Knowledge”to Habitual Action
8. Guard Your Environment and Influences.


“Just because
someone is sincere in
his convictions does
not mean that it is true.
It is possible to be
sincerely wrong.”

Follow Up Chat Questions:

1. How do you evaluate your personal convictions?
2. Describe a time your biblical conviction cost you?
3. How would Jesus describe you?
4. How can you apply today's lesson to your Christian walk?