

## 20190616 – THE RECORD OF JOHN

Sunday AM – John 1:29-28

### I. WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

#### a. He was a Special Breed

i. Matt. 11:11 – “Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

1. Easy to focus on the last part of that verse
2. But let’s not overlook the first part
3. No one born has risen greater than John the Baptist

ii. Luke 16:16 – “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.”

#### b. He had a Supernormal Birth

i. Luke 1:5-7

1. Righteous! Blameless!
2. Quite a testimony to be written in the inerrant Word of God
3. Well-stricken in years (how old?)

ii. Luke 1:11-17

1. Shall drink neither wine nor strong drink
2. Filled with the Holy Ghost (even from the womb!)
3. He shall go before “him” – vs. 17
4. Spirit and power of Elijah.

iii. Luke 1:36-37 & 41

1. The babe leaped in her womb
2. His mother filled with the Holy Ghost!
3. For with God, nothing shall be impossible (vs. 37)

#### c. He had a Singular Burden

- i. He preached repentance, for the kingdom of God is at hand
  - 1. John STERNLY rebuked sin
    - a. Called all men to do works meet for repentance
    - b. Make STRAIGHT the way of the Lord
  - 2. Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the SIN of the world
  - 3. Not sins but SIN
- ii. He pointed people to Jesus Christ
  - 1. Vs. 15 – He that cometh after me is preferred before me
  - 2. WHY? For he WAS before me!
    - a. Some might be tempted to think that John didn't understand
    - b. That the Gospel remained a mystery to him
    - c. But I can say this much! He recognized the preexistent one!
  - 3. John 8:58 – “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”
- d. Let's hear the record of John the Baptist (John 1:19-28)
- e. What sayest thou of thyself?
  - i. First – who's asking?
    - 1. They were priests and Levites from Jerusalem
    - 2. They had come a LONG way to ask John who he was
    - 3. John himself was a priest (remember his father?)
    - 4. He could not be questioned by anyone less than a priest
  - ii. Secondly – who sent them?
    - 1. The leaders (vs. 22)
    - 2. Probably the Sanhedrin or a very high court

3. The very ones who SHOULD have recognized the forerunner
4. And embraced him
- iii. Thirdly – why were they sent?
  1. Because they couldn't arrest John and bring him to them!
  2. They feared the people
  3. And they were insulted!
    - a. Malachi Chapter 3:3 (read 1-3 if time)
    - b. Purify the sons of Levi?
    - c. They were proud. Self-righteous!
    - d. They had no need of the repentance John preached!

## II. WHO I AM NOT

- a. Not the Christ.
  - i. That was the most obvious – who does this madman make himself to be?
  - ii. But John repeatedly / consistently denied it!
    1. The confession in vs. 20 shows his humility
    2. And the repetition in vs. 20 shows his vehemence
  - iii. He already said it up in vs. 15
- b. Not Elias.
  - i. The Jews expected Elias to come down from Heaven (made up their own story)
    1. That isn't as crazy as it might sound
    2. In their minds, John the Baptist appeared out of NO WHERE
    3. And in the same part of the country where Elijah was carried to Heaven
  - ii. And Elijah was prophesied
    1. Mal. 4:5-6 (last book of the O.T.)

2. How do we know this is John the Baptist? See: Luke 1:17
- iii. But John declined this honor.
  1. On the mount of transfiguration? Elijah and Moses
  2. Who is in the book of Revelation? Well, no one knows 😊
- c. Not “that” prophet.
  - i. Redundant
    1. Duet. 18:15 – “The LORD thy God will raise up unto a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.”
    2. Obviously other “prophets” were sent
    3. But none with a capital “P”
    4. None like Jesus
  - ii. He WAS a prophet
    1. But not any Old Testament prophet raised from the dead
    2. His commission and work was of a different nature entirely
  - iii. Almost desperate now: What answer can we give them that sent us?

### III. WHO I AM

- a. The voice of one crying in the wilderness
  - i. Not the leader of a mega-church
  - ii. Not the best dressed
  - iii. But a barely heard and seldom heeded voice crying REPENT!
- b. Crying implies an earnestness. A sincerity. An importunity.
  - i. He cried around and did not spare

- ii. He told people the truth!
- c. Make STRAIGHT!
  - i. Came to call out the mistakes and errors the religious people were following
  - ii. Came to rectify false spiritualism and phony religion
  - iii. Make ROOM for God! Get Right!
  - iv. Let the Word of God have FREE COURSE

#### **IV. WHO WE NEED**

- a. If you aren't that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet (vs. 25)
  - i. Why are you baptizing?
  - ii. John had the answer
  - iii. It's the answer all people seek!
  - iv. It's the balm in Gilead. It is healing to the sin-sick soul!
  - v. John was pointing to Jesus Christ
- b. But they couldn't see Him
  - i. Vs. 26 – He was AMONG them
  - ii. And they didn't even know it
  - iii. Sound familiar? Vs. 5 and 10
- c. He's Above me. Before me! I am not worthy to unlace His shoe
- d. John said:
  - i. I am not the Christ
  - ii. But I can point you to Him!
  - iii. The very next verse – vs. 29

#### **V. JESUS CHRIST**

- a. I am not Moses, I am not Elijah, I am not John the Baptist
- b. But I can point you to the one and only Jesus Christ
  - i. My message is the same as John's

- ii. Repent. Allow the Word of God to have free reign in your life
  - iii. Trust Him. Acts 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
- c. We can all be like John
  - i. Live a modest life of humility
  - ii. And point people to the Savior!