

I. MANY MEN HAD SEEN JOHN

A. John the Baptist (vs. 33-35)

1. A burning and shining light
 - a. They were willing to rejoice in that light for a season
 - b. There's a reason why emotion-based movements die!
 - c. Because there's no way to grow them!
 - i. Promise hot dog and next week a hamburger
 - ii. Give away a bicycle and next month go-cart!
 - iii. There's no way to go DOWN with emotion
 - iv. The flesh always wants something BIGGER!
 - d. I'm learning that emotion can never start true revival
 - e. Only brokenness leads to real and lasting revival!
2. The not only followed John
 - a. But they went out into the wilderness where he was
 - b. They ignored his camel hair clothing
 - c. And his eating habits
3. The Religious leaders were even scared of John the Baptist
 - a. They sent a group to him to find out who he was (vs. 33)
 - b. And remember: John testified "I am not the Christ"

B. Jesus and John

1. What did John do?
 - a. Bare witness of the truth (vs. 33)
 - b. And miracles, right? No?
 - c. John came performing no miracles
2. What did Jesus do?
 - a. Came to do the works the Father gave Him to finish (vs. 36)
 - b. And MANY miracles!
3. Isn't that funny?
 - a. John worked no miracles and yet people followed him in droves
 - b. Jesus worked countless miracles and the people rejected Him
 - c. Now let's just think about that for a minute!
 - i. Wait. Don't the Greeks seek after knowledge
 - ii. But the Jews seek after a sign?
 - iii. Ah! The flesh and pride – even when staring at a miracle
 - iv. The signs were never good enough.
 - v. Who are you going to believe?
 - vi. Your family Rabbi that circumcised you on the 8th day?
 - vii. Or your own lying eyes?

C. Jesus pointed to His works (vs. 36)

1. Now this is critically important

- a. They were the works given Him to FINISH by the Father
 - b. This was not a master sending a servant to toil in a field
 - c. This was a Father send His own Son to REDEEM a possession
- 2. These works were the Father's works <- implicit intention of the Father
 - a. In other words: He was both APPOINTED and EMPOWERED
 - b. They were given to Him to Finish
 - c. And by Finishing them, He proves Himself divine
 - d. He had started the work with Baptism
 - e. Now He is continuing (vs. 36) "the same works that I do"
- 3. One day He will FINISH them
 - a. John 19:30 - Tetelestai!
 - b. Nothing can be added and nothing taken away
 - c. The work of Redemption complete
 - d. The works the Father had given Him – DONE! FINISHED!
- D. Jesus pointed to His works three times as a testimony
 - 1. John 3:2 – Nicodemus
 - a. John 3:1 – "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: (2) The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."
 - b. Jesus did not correct him
 - c. Jesus let the miracles authenticate His origin with God
 - 2. John 10:25
 - a. John 10:24 – "Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. (25) Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me."
 - b. The miracles witness that He is the Son of God
 - 3. John 15:24
 - a. John 15:23 – "He that hateth me hateth my Father also. (24) If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father."
 - b. The miracles prove that He and the Father are One.
- E. This is what the Jews saw
 - 1. Jesus cleansed a lepers – completely impossible for the doctors
 - 2. Jesus calmed the storm – completely impossible even today for scientists
 - 3. Jesus called the dead – completely impossible for religion
 - 4. Jesus walked on water – completely impossible within the physical laws
- F. Jesus will now remind them of all the things they had NEVER seen

II. NEVER HEARD THE VOICE OF GOD

- A. No man had ever seen God (the context here is God the Father)
 - 1. That includes the “theophanies” – such as Jacob wrestling with God
 - a. Melchizedek King of Salem
 - b. Those were all God the Son pre-incarnate
 - 2. Not even Moses
 - a. Exodus 33:19-23 – “And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. (20) And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.
 - b. (21) And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: (22) And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:
 - c. (23) And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.”
 - 3. John 1:18 – “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”
 - 4. JESUS has seen the Father
 - 5. John 10:30 – “I and my Father are one.”
- B. Ye have never HEARD His Voice (vs. 37)
 - 1. Like the tone-deaf person to melody
 - a. They can hear the rhythm
 - b. But cannot differentiate the notes
 - 2. This happened to Paul on the road to Damascus
 - a. He heard the voice of God
 - b. The people with him only heard a great thundering
 - 3. John the Baptist heard
 - a. “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”
 - b. But he had to tell even Andrew and John
- C. How does God speak to us today?
 - 1. Through His Word
 - 2. Conversation with God (prayer and Bible study)

III. NEVER SEEN HIS SHAPE (VS. 37)

- A. Not able to see
 - 1. I Timothy 6:15 – “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; (16) Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”

2. God is a SPIRIT
 3. John 4:24 – “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
- B. Now we often speak of God as having human features
1. The “eyes” of God
 2. The hand of God
 3. But we should all understand what we mean.... (not literal)
- C. How terrible
1. It would be to not see the HAND of God in your life
 2. That’s what Jesus was saying, they had not seen His shape
 3. Never to know the working of God in their lives

IV. NEVER HAD HIS WORD (VS. 38)

- A. Never had it abiding in them – what a heart-wrenching sentence to these men
1. But it would be even worse for us sitting here today
 2. With dozens of Bibles in almost every household
 3. To not have the Word of God abiding in us.
 - a. Abiding means living
 - b. Day-in and Day-out
 - c. Not sometimes, but all the time
- B. (Song) Thy word have I hid in my heart
1. That I might not sin against thee
 2. That’s why we memorize it
 3. So, He will never have to say that about us
- C. The Word of God was not in them
1. And yet the very Word of God was walking among them
 2. They would not believe
 3. Therefore, they would not receive

V. DO YOU KNOW GOD?

- A. It’s interesting that Jesus pointed to the works, the miracles
1. And no one there questioned Him
 2. No one there denied the miracles
 3. Yet liberals today will discount the works of Jesus
 4. And in doing so, discount the work of the Father
- B. Do you know God today?
1. The Father sent the Son to seek and to save that which was lost
 2. That was His mission
 3. And if you don’t know Him today, He’s seeking for you
 4. He finished the Work so you could be saved
- C. Be Saved Today!