

*John The Baptist*

Title: ~~The Bright of the Sun~~

Text: John 1:6-13

Take your bibles, please, and turn with me to the gospel of John. The Gospel of John chapter 1 beginning with vs. 6. We are looking at the Deity of Jesus Christ. Last week we look at (1B) the Person, Power, and Purpose of Jesus. Today, I want to look at the <sup>(2B)</sup> Testimony of John the Baptist and our Response. John chapter 1 beginning at Vs 6. Would you please stand for the reading of God's Word?

(Read John 1:6-13)

(Prayer)

(2B) Now, this brings us to the TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST AS IT CONCERNS THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST. The testimony of John the Baptist.

You know, I am really impressed, challenged, and inspired by the testimony of John the Baptist. Oh, let me tell you. There is no better example in the entire Bible for believers to see our responsibility to the Word that was God, as John the Baptist. Think for a moment of John down at the river Jordan, not in the great Temple in Jerusalem, but down at the river Jordan. Matthew says that John was there preaching, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." And all of Jerusalem was going out to him, and all of Judea, and the entire district around Jordan; and they were being baptized by John in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. MAN! It must have been some sight.

2

The Gospel of Mark says that John was a wild man. A man who wore camel hair and he had a leather belt about him. And his diet was locusts and wild honey. I think I would rather have had a Big Mac.

Now, don't get the idea that John was some sort of lunatic or a religious fanatic, because he wasn't. According to history the appearance of John is that of the common poor class of people who lived in that day and age.

We are, also, told that his diet, locust and wild honey, was the common diet of the poorer class of people. If John lived today, we would probably say: "Here is John in his faddy blue denim overalls, eating beans and rice. John was a common man ... a poor person.

But, this ought to remind of something very important. That God often chooses the poor things of this world to confound the mighty. He takes the foolish things and makes them to be wise and great in His sight. In fact, the Bible says that John was great in the sight of the Lord."

So, John is down there at the river Jordan preaching that the world is going to perish unless the people repent. And the Bible says that he was a voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. Even when the angel proclaimed the birth of Jesus, he said that John would turn the hearts of many to the Lord. That, of course, was the mission of John the Baptist.

(3)

There are three principles that we learn from the life of John the Baptist that can be applied to our life, if we want to. Three principles.

(1) Number one, the authority of John the Baptist. The Bible says in Vs. 6:

“Their came a man, sent from God, whose name was John.

Listen, dear friends, we are not going out to witness in our own name and authority. God wants us to witness for him. But, please remember, we go out under the authority of God. This principle should encourage us as we invite people to church.

Matthew 28:19, Jesus said, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples.”

What should ~~motivate~~ <sup>MOTIVATE</sup> us to go and witness? *Why can we have courage? Because*

*We go in the* authority of Jesus. Not in our own authority. But in the authority of Jesus.

(2c) Secondly, I want you to notice John's purpose in Vs 7. "He came for a witness." You see, that was John's purpose. And that is the purpose that Jesus has given to us. In 2 Corinthians chapter 5, Paul says, "we are ambassadors for Christ." That Christ has given to us the message of reconciliation. And in Acts 1:8 we are told to be His witness in Jerusalem, in Judea, and to the furthest parts of the world.

Now, look at Vs 7 and I would like you to notice three things which characterize the purpose of John the Baptist. These three principles we should apply to our life.

(1D) The first thing I notice is that John was under a divine commission. A divine commission to be a witness. The Bible says, "He came for a witness, that he might bear witness." A witness tells what he knows and what he has experienced. Of course, if you haven't experienced Jesus Christ in your life, then you have nothing to witness to. But, if you have received Christ, then that is what you are to tell other folks about.

You know, nothing could be more sweeter for your life, in terms of what God wants you to do, then to tell what you know and have experienced about Jesus Christ. And every Christian, in that sense, is trained by God to be a witness. Because you are simply telling what you have experienced and what you know. You are an ambassador with the message of reconciliation.

(2D) The second thing concerning this purpose of John was the character of it. Vs 7 says, "He is to bear witness of the light." Now, part of our problem in witnessing is that we are bearing witness to ourselves. Or, maybe a church program..We are doing things that instead of bearing witness to the light. Namely, Jesus Christ.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians chapter 4 that if our Gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are perishing. For we should not be preaching ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord." It is the light, Jesus, that we want to glorify.

And I challenge all of us, here, today. We need to re-evaluate, to re-think our witness. Are we bearing witness to the light..to Jesus, or, are we just doing things to get some praise or recognition?

(31) Then in the third place, concerning this purpose, notice the concern that is involved. Vs 7 says, "that all men might believe."

Dear friends, there should be no other concern in our witnessing. There should be no other purpose or reason. Are we concerned that all people might some how believe? That is the tenor, that is the heart, that is the motivation of all christian witnessing. In fact, that ought to be our motivation in all that we do in the name of Jesus. Whether we teach a Sunday School class, or serve on the church board or a church committee, or sing in the choir. *That ought to be our motivation* ~~WHAT MOTIVATES US TO SERVE? I trust it is: that all men and woman... boys and girls... might believe.~~ *That all might believe*

(32) Then, notice John's attitude in Vs 8. I am impressed, and I hope you are too, of his precious attitude.

Vs 8 says, "He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light." John wasn't the light. And he never wanted to be the light.

People would come to John and ask: "Are you Ellijah?"..NO! I am not Ellijah! "Are you the one that is coming?" "NO! I am not."

"Well, John, who are you?" "I am just a voice trying to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord."

What a tremendous attitude. In John 3:30, *John* said, "Jesus must increase, but I must decrease,"

What about our attitude? I hope it is like John. Here was a man totally devoted to God to the point that he did not see himself in the role as the great saviour of men...NO, WAY...He saw himself in the role of pointing others to the one who could save men.

And that is our role. That is our purpose. *That ought to be the purpose of the church* ~~That is our calling.. Yes the~~ ~~the spirit says to the church.~~

*in Shirley Long, we should... with your... and go... and invite people to the church.*