INTRODUCTION

Why would God have John the Baptist (JTB) be an odd duck – His dress and diet were not considered normal?
- God sometimes employed shock-n-awe tactics with His prophets as a last ditch effort to grab peoples’ attention during critical periods of history for them to either wake up or be destroyed. In all cases, the people ended up getting destroyed.
- Isaiah walked around naked for 3 years
- Hosea had to marry a temple prostitute
- Ezekiel was told to cook food over human dung
- JTB and Jesus were related (Luke 1:36), possibly distant cousins

When Gentiles converted to Judaism, the men would rebaptized?
- The test of a drastic inward change
- The water (earthy) and the Messiah's eternal significance
- Never worked one miracle.
- JTB was a viable candidate for such a prophet – but he never worked one miracle.

Who Are You, John?
- Why would the Jews consider it important to send Priests and Levites to John the Baptist (JTB) to ask him who he was?
- Consider this – JTB was the son of Zacharias, a Levitical priest, descendant from Aaron or Moses, who had duties to make sacrifices. Many thought the Messiah would be a Prophet & Priest like Moses
- Kudos to the Priests & Levites for checking JTB out,
- Satan often copies works of God to deceive
- The Jews of this day, according to Clarke’s commentary, erroneously believed that Elijah, Jeremiah, and many more prophets would possibly appear just prior to the coming of the Messiah based on passages such as Mal 4:5; Deut 18:15; Is 40:3
- JTB was a viable candidate for such a prophet – but he never worked one miracle.

Why Do You Baptize, John?
- v26. JTB makes a distinction between his baptism of water (earthy) and the Messiah’s eternal significance
- Purpose of being baptized – An outward public testimony of a drastic inward change
- Would those who were baptized by John need to be rebaptized? Acts 18:25-27; 19:3-6

Jewish Baptisms
- When Gentiles converted to Judaism, the men would be circumcised, and men & women would be immersed in water as a ceremonial cleansing
- John, by baptizing fellow Jews, altered the custom of the day. The view was no one had authority to make such changes unless commissioned from on high; and that only Elijah, or the Prophet, or the Messiah himself could act as John did (Clarke’s commentary)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

JTB did a phenomenal job pointing everyone to the true Messiah without any fanfare or even miracles – Just good biblical reasoning. And we have the same tools as JTB had – The Bible

NEXT WEEK: John 2. Jesus makes a name for Himself as someone to be reckoned with. First He makes some high quality wine for a party, and then he ticks off the religious establishment by ruining their profitable business venture within the House of Worship

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

C’MON guys.. this road is more crooked than a Roman politician with a slipped disk!.. let’s STRAIGHTEN UP!

So John the Baptist comes onto the scene as the voice crying in the wilderness. “Prepare the way for the Lord, and GİT DİM ROADS STRAIGHT.” Mk 1:2-3, Lk 3:4