

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2013 John 1:1-18 God Revealed
- 2) 08 Sept John 1:19-51 **Jesus Identified**
- 3) 15 Sept John 2:1-25 Authority Acknowledged
- 4) 22 Sept John 3:1-36 Salvation Offered
- 5) 29 Sept John 4:1-38 The Power to Give Life
- 6) 06 Oct John 4:39-54 The Power to Save
- 7) 13 Oct John 5:1-47 The Power to Heal
- 8) 20 Oct John 6:1-71 The Power to Meet Needs
- 9) 27 Oct John 7:1-52 Asking Questions About Jesus
- 10) 03 Nov John 7:53-8:59 Wondering About Judgment
- 11) 10 Nov John 9:1-41 Doubting Jesus' Power
- 12) 17 Nov John 10:1-42 Feeling Insecure?
- 13) 24 Nov John 11:1-57 Dealing with Death

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 through a relative's marriage since JTB's parents were both Levites, and Jesus' parents were both from the tribe of Judah

Passage	Comments
John 1:19-23	<p>Who Are You, John?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why would the Jews consider it important to send Priests and Levites to John the Baptist (JTB) to ask him who he was? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this – JTB was the son of Zacharias, a Levitical priest, descendent 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, because many false christs were about (Acts 5:36) and false wonders were being worked (Acts 16:16) ♦ 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.
1:24-28	<p>Why Do You Baptize, John?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)

Passage	Comments
1:29-36	<p>Who Do You Say Jesus Is, John?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v29. JTB confirmed Jesus as the Messiah (Lamb of God) who's goal was to take away the sins of the world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Was this a "universal" solution for everyone's sin or just the removal of the sins of the elect? ♦ It is not explained in this passage, but Scripture is clear that Jesus "the Last Adam" fully fixed for ALL the First Adam's sin, which affected ALL – and this solution, if individually accepted, turns Hell-bound sinners (non-elect) into Heaven-bound saints (elect) • v31. "I did not recognize him..." but JTB recognized Jesus while both were still in the womb Luke 1:41 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ JTB's knowledge of Jesus was imperfect until fully confirmed by the Holy Spirit's direct revelation
1:37-46	<p>We Are Leaving You, John!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v38. "...where are you staying?" The 2 disciples basically asked Jesus for a lengthy amount of time to talk things over deeply and get better acquainted • v39. "...come and see" – Jesus' response was basically, 'OK, let's talk and get acquainted' • v40. "One of the two...was Andrew" – The unnamed disciple is traditionally assumed to be John the Apostle • The entourage begins to grow – Andrew finds his brother Simon (Peter), then Jesus finds Philip, and Philip finds Nathanael – Christianity grows 1 at a time
1:47-51	<p>We Found Someone Better, John!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v48. Jesus reveals Nathanael sitting under a fig tree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Having a fig tree in your yard to rest under and meditate, and enjoy the fruits of one's labor was considered a blessing from God (1Kings 4:25 – "and Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree")

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



So John the Baptist comes onto the scene as the voice crying out in the wilderness... "Prepare the way for the Lord, and GIT DĒM ROADS STRAIGHT..." Mk 1:2-3, Lk 3:4