

The Testimony of John the Baptist

Lessons for this Series

1. John the Baptist's story shows how a person can understand and _____ his role in the Kingdom and then _____ it.
2. When someone looked at John the Baptist, they saw _____.
What do people see when they look at _____?

The Scriptures

John 1:19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." 21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" 24 Now some Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. 27 He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." 28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Some Historical Perspective

The _____ of this Story:

John 1:32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

The _____ of this Story:

John 10:40 Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. Here he stayed

There are _____ Bethanys

A _____ on "the Jews.": This phrase is used 59 times in the gospel and nearly _____ of them are used as an _____ against the Hebrew people.

John 4:22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

John 11:45 Therefore many of the Jews . . . put their faith in him.

John's Confession -- It is said _____ and _____.

John doesn't want anyone to _____ who he is.

John 1:20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely,



The Fourfold Testimony of John

1. John _____ himself by who he was _____.
 - a. I am not the _____.
 - b. I am not _____.

Mal. 4:5 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

Luke 1:16 Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

- c. I am not the _____.

Mark 6:15 Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

2. John defined himself by _____ he _____.

John 1:22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

What could John have said?

He began by quoting _____. This is always _____!

He said that he was a _____; a statement of _____.

He shared his message: "Get your _____ ready for the Lord!"

3. Next, John defined himself by _____ he _____.

John 1:24 Now some Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

The Jews believed that the Messiah or his predecessor would _____ to cleanse for all _____.

Ezek. 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. . . . 33 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt.

4. Finally, John defined himself by _____ himself to _____.

John indicated that the Jews should _____ know Jesus.

John declared that he was _____ to untie Jesus' sandals.

Consider:

1. Do you _____ your faith _____? Is your faith your _____?
2. Are you able to _____ your _____?
3. Do your words and actions _____ to _____?