

I AM THE VOICE OF ONE John 1:19-37

Today we re-meet a man who, when asked who he was, kept telling whom he was not.

'Who are you?' They asked him. 'I am not the Christ.'

'Who then? Are you Elijah? And he said, 'I am not.'

'Are you the Prophet? And he answered, 'No.'

Jesus said of John, in Matthew 11:11, 'Among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.'

I-THE MESSAGE OF JOHN-

John was not one to draw attention to himself. But, even more clearly, he wanted to draw attention to Messiah.

'Why then are you baptizing?, if you are not Messiah, or Elijah or the prophet?'

Baptizo- 'to baptize, to dip, to immerse, to wash'

Baptism became closely associated with repentance.

John's baptisms took place not in Jerusalem but in Bethany across the Jordan.

II-THE NEXT DAY-

On the day after John denied himself to point to another, his purpose, and ours by the way, arrived. Verse 29 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

The Lamb; an imagery which pointed back to Passover in Exodus 12:1-13.

It was the Lamb slain in Goshen that provided safety for the Israelites when the death angel passed over their homes in Egypt.

John made sure that the focus was on Jesus. He says, 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' Matt. 3:11

John's baptism with water is to symbolize repentance that has taken place

The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus at His baptism but would ultimately be given at Pentecost, at the founding of the church (Acts 2).

Since Jesus was to bring both the baptism of the Holy Spirit and of fire, the later must refer to the second coming when judgment will be delivered.

John 1:19 & 34 'And this is the testimony of John....I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

III-ONE MORE DAY-

We are working through the diary of the Apostle John. John never allowed his followers to mistake the message for the messenger. He told all who heard him that the one who came after him was greater than him. John was the voice, but he was not the message.

The Baptist understood that he served at the will and for the purpose of, the Son of God.

After John 1, John the Baptist pretty much disappears from the scene. At the end of chapter 3 his followers question that Jesus's disciples are baptizing and John utters that well known statement, 'He must increase, but I must decrease.'

Remember, the purpose of the Gospel of John is to show that Jesus is the Son of God.