

John 1:19-28: The Humility of John the Baptist's Ministry

- John was the Son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. He was Jesus' older cousin of about 6 months. ****Luke 1:39-45****
- His role was to baptize (*to put or go under water*) people for repentance (*change of mind, a change in the inner man*) of their sins. ****Matthew 21:32****
- “Baptist” or “baptizer” was the surname given to John in reference to his activity.
- Baptism: Used in NT to describe a ceremonial washing for the purpose of sanctification. John baptized people teaching “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin. In OT A symbol dying to your old sinful self and being born again as a new creation through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. ***It is an outward expression to an inward work!!***
- John's baptism was preparatory; not identification with Christ. Remember Jesus had not died and resurrected yet. ****Romans 6:1-17****
- John's baptism was physical and being baptized in Jesus is spiritual!

➤ **(vs' 19-20): John the Baptist is confronted by the Jews (religious leaders) about his identity:**

- 1.) “Testimony”: witness
- 2.) “Jews”: refers to religious leaders primarily Pharisees (probably sent by the Sanhedrin).
- 3.) “Confess”: can also mean “to profess, praise.”
- 4.) John immediately points out he is NOT the Christ (“Anointed One” / “Messiah”).

➤ **(vs' 21-22): Pharisees probes John further comparing him to Elijah and the Prophet in OT:**

- 1.) “Elijah” was God's prophet who confronted the wicked kings of Israel. The Jews expected Elijah to return to the earth prior to the return of the Messiah (Christ) ****Malachi 4:5****
- 2.) “Prophet” was a prophecy from Moses in ****Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-23; Acts 7:37**** that actually pointed to Jesus.

➤ **(vs. 23): Prophecy is fulfilled when John identifies who he is (rather what his purpose is):**

- 1.) ****Isaiah 40:1-3; Luke 3:4; Mark 1:1-3; Matthew 3:3****

➤ **(vs' 24-28): Pharisees' continues questioning after John fulfills Isaiah passages that they were familiar with.**

1.) vs. 24: Identifies who sent the Jews who questioned John the Baptist.

2.) vs. 25: Jews believed they were of superior knowledge/wisdom.

→ They probably were appalled that someone “lower” than them was baptizing without authority since John admitted to NOT being the Christ, Prophet, nor Elijah. John certainly was not part of the religious leaders (Sanhedrin).

→ The Jewish leaders in that day baptized Gentiles who wanted to adopt Judaism (Jewish faith), but John baptized Jews!

3.) vs' 26-28: John declared his role for who is coming with **extreme humility** ****Luke 18:14****

→ John is pointing to the Christ.

→ ***Humility***: The personal quality of being free from arrogance and pride and having an accurate estimate of one's worth – *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

→ vs. 27 – John knew he was not worthy (*deserving*) to untie his master's sandals. This was a slave or servant's job. We need to remind ourselves we are not worthy as well. ****Hebrews 3:3-4****

→ Notice people that are deceived and off-course when they don't focus on what is important (in this case it was the Pharisees).

→ Pharisees were deceived and their hearts were hardened.

→ They believed this uprising would affect their reputation and their following based on their wrong expectations and interpretation of who the Messiah would be.

→ They misinterpreted God's Word.

1.) ***What are some takeaways from John the Baptist's ministry can we implement in our own walk with Jesus?***

2.) ***Do we show humility towards our Lord Jesus and grasp what He has done for us?***

3.) *Do we care what other's think more than what God thinks?*

4.) *Are we bold in our faith and confess Jesus as Lord to others?*

5.) *Do we understand our faith enough to be bold?*

6.) *Do we know the difference between legalism and boldness when it comes to our faith?*