

The Interrogation of John the Baptist

John 1:19-28

December 27, 2020

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John's purpose in writing his gospel account is we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing we may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)

Our passage today focuses on John the Baptist's testimony about who he is and why he is baptizing. The first part of our text (vv. 19-23) seeks to answer the question about who John is. The second part of the text (vv. 24-28) seeks to answer the question of why John is baptizing people.

The Setting (1:19, 24, 28)

The focus is on the testimony of John.

Those who are initiating the interrogation: The Jews sent to him...from Jerusalem.

Also verse 24, "Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

Pharisees

Those who are sent to interrogate: priests and Levites.

These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan where John was baptizing. (v.28)

The Interrogation – part one: Who are you? (1:19-23)

"Who are you?"

(-) "I am not the Christ!" (v. 20)

“Are you Elijah?” Malachi 4:5-6

2Kings 1:8; Matthew 3:4; Mark 1:6

Matthew 16:13-14; 17:1-5

(-) He said, “I am not.”

Matthew 11:14

Are you the Prophet?

Deuteronomy 18:15

(-) “No.”

“Who are you?....What do you say about yourself?”

(+) “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.” (Isaiah 40:3)

The Interrogation – part two: Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet? (1:25-28)

Why are you baptizing? (v. 25)

John answered them saying, I baptize in water, but among you stands one whom you do not know.
(v. 26)

John 1:5, 10-11

It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie. (v. 27)

John 1:15

John's example of what it means to be a faithful witness.

John faithfully points others not to himself but to surpassing glory of Christ.

We follow in John's footsteps as witnesses to Christ Jesus.

Acts 1:8

Romans 10:8-17