

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

John (who would be called John the Baptizer (i.e.; Baptist, immerser)) was quite an odd fellow by the standards of that day, let alone by our own standards today. He was a Nazarite who was filled with the HOLY GHOST in his mother’s womb. Mary was overshadowed by the LORD and made to be with the HOLY CHILD, JESUS, about six months after John’s conception. We see the evidence of the indwelling of the SPIRIT in John when Mary visited Elizabeth, and he leapt in her womb, perceiving the presence of HIM whose NAME is above every name.

Isaiah identified John as *“the voice of one crying in the wilderness.”* Being the last of the Old Testament prophets, he could only see the purpose for which CHRIST came into the world through very dim eyes, even though he could see more clearly than any who had gone before. Thus, we see him *“crying in the wilderness”*. Now surely this world is a wilderness to all of those whose citizenship is in another country which is not made with hands, yet, he could only behold CHRIST even as Moses could only view the promised land, from afar. He was given the knowledge that HE was the LAMB that taketh away the sin of the world, he could recognize HIS place of honor in the Kingdom of GOD, and he had some understanding of the power of CHRIST to bestow HIS SPIRIT upon HIS disciples, baptizing them with fire.

Yet he was not allowed to see the complete work of CHRIST in dying for sinners and then rising again from the dead as the FIRST FRUITS of them that sleep. He could not fully grasp the SPIRITUAL nature of CHRIST’s Kingdom, since he sent men from prison to inquire of HIM when HE would restore the Kingdom to Israel. Thus, the LORD said of him, *“For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”* What a privilege is bestowed upon those who have been given eyes to see the finished, substitutionary work of CHRIST in the behalf of those whom HE has loved with an everlasting love. We should not be amazed at the lack of understanding which John had, especially when we think of the fact that HIS disciples who companied with HIM from the beginning of HIS ministry; actually missed the point of HIS coming as they asked the same question on the eve of HIS ascension. *“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”* Yet with all of his limitations and odd habits, John alone, is that Messenger sent by the FATHER to herald the advent of CHRIST to the world.

In the very first verse of Isa. 40, the LORD commands, *“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned:”* Thus John bears witness of the gospel in the clearest of terms when he told his own disciples, *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”* This is a message of certainty. He bore witness that what HE came to do, HE would most certainly accomplish. There is no greater word of comfort which can be given to the children of GOD than the declaration that *“HE has obtained eternal redemption”* for them. HE has not attempted to do it awaiting their cooperation to make it certain, but by HIS own blood HE has purchased their redemption and they are HIS possession. *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”*

This voice crying in the wilderness said, *“Prepare ye the way of the LORD.”* This word “prepare” literally means, “turn to face, or behold”, and is often translated from the Hebrew as “turn” or “looked upon”. *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* Because of the work of CHRIST, we fear no condemnation. Thus, we preach with John, for men to *“look unto CHRIST, and be ye saved, ye ends of the earth”*. The WAY of the LORD is a *“straight way”* a *“pleasant or prosperous way.”* This WAY (being CHRIST) levels hills, straightens curves, and smooths the path for those who are sojourners through this land of sin and sorrow. HE is our PEACE who has broken down the walls of separation between us and the riches of HIS Kingdom. *“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* The LORD’s sovereign mercy is HIS glory even as HE told Moses, *“I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy.”* Have you beheld HIS GLORY?

“Thy free grace alone,” #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net**