

A. INTRODUCTION

1. According to Jesus

Luke 18:10-14 (ESV) — ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- a. Hear these men very different prayers?
- b. Hear the Lord’s very different pronouncements concerning these men?
- c. What is the difference? **CONVERSION**
 - 1) One sign of conversion is feeling of unworthiness – owning one’s sins
 - 2) Another sign is loving God - **John 13:34-35** (ESV) — ³⁴ **A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”**
 - 3) Sign of loving God is desire to serve Him - **John 14:15** (ESV) — ¹⁵ **“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.**

2. Being Under the Authority of King Jesus - Means One is Responsible to be Obedient.

- a. We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and Savior of Sinners.
- b. We confess that Jesus is Lord and Savior.
- c. We confess that Jesus is King and I am a redeemed sinner.
- d. Our responsibility is not
 - 1) to *ADVISE* Jesus
 - 2) *BRAIN-STORM* with Him
- e. Our responsibility is to **OBEY** Him
- f. No matter what my words - the real test of my confession of Jesus is **OBEEDIENCE**.

3. John Baptist

- a. All four Gospels dovetail at ministry of John Baptist
- b. John Baptist was the King’s Herald - who ran before & announced King’s approach
- c. John was a bold preacher – as Dr Johnson said

John the Baptist was a voice and not an echo. He was an individual who did not hesitate to say precisely what God gave him to say, and he did not say what he said making it dependent upon the attitudes of those to whom he was sent by God. He was truly a voice. He was not an echo.

- 1) Sermons - were simple & clear
- 2) Call to repentance - earnest & sincere
- 3) Dress & manners - protest against frivolity & carelessness
- d. Seems to be NO reservation in John
 - 1) He leaps in Mother's womb when Mary greeted his mother Elizabeth
 - 2) Stands toe to toe with Pharisees & later King Herod does not blink
 - 3) Readily confesses the superiority of Jesus
- e. BUT when Jesus came to be baptized - John falters - - WHY?

BECAUSE OF THE PERCEIVED & REAL SUPERIORITY OF JESUS
- f. BUT John does baptize Jesus - WHY?

BECAUSE OF THE PERCEIVED & REAL SUPERIORITY OF JESUS
- g. Don't you see? - - IT would be ludicrous to confess Jesus as Christ AND then refuse Him

B. THE HUMBLENESS OF JESUS

1. Jesus Calls Us To Humble Service AND He Is Our Captain & Example
 - a. **Phil 2:1-11** - Humbled Himself and became flesh
 - b. **John 13** - Humbled Himself and washed Disciples feet
 - c. **John 19:9-11** - Humbled Himself and died on cross
2. Jesus' Baptism
 - a. **vs 13** - Was deliberate action - Jesus traveled from Galilee to Jordon to be baptized
 - b. **vs 16-17** - Jesus' baptism was attended by Holy Trinity
 - c. Was important
 - 1) Verified John's baptism & message
 - 2) Public inauguration of Jesus' public ministry
 - d. Baptism of Jesus is something of a mystery
 - 1) John's baptism one of repentance - Christ did not need to repent
 - 2) Christ says it is to ***"fulfill all righteousness"***
 - 3) What does this mean? - - Jesus is righteous
 - 4) Hendriksen - *"The answer has not been specifically revealed to us"*
3. In Text - Jesus Humbles Himself & Calls Upon John to Do the Same
 - a. NOTE **vs 15** - ***"us"***
 - 1) He was baptized to FUFILL righteousness
 - 2) AND both He and John are required to fulfill this part of God's plan
 - b. John is called upon to humbly obey AND he does!

**THE LORD CALLS UPON US TO OBEY
WILL YOU? WILL WE?**