

Bill & Kipp's Excellent Bible Adventure

John - **Episode 7** - John 1: 19-34; 3: 22-36 - John the Baptist and Elijah

- I. Cousin of Jesus - Luke Chapter 1, beginning with verse 5 tells the story of the family interactions of John and Jesus.
 - A. Have you ever had an older friend or relative, similar to Elizabeth for Mary, who helped guide you spiritually? Who might you be able to mentor who has questions about life and purpose, and ultimately God?
 - B. How does John's father's prophecy in Luke 1: 76-77 foretell his role?
 - C. Scripture does not record any other interactions between Jesus and John prior to each beginning their ministries. What would you imagine their childhoods and adolescence might have been?

- II. Not Elijah - Malachi 4:5-6 says, "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."
 - A. How hard was it for John to keep explaining to other's his sense of purpose, and refusing comparison to other figures? Have you ever struggled to step from behind other's shadows, and live out the path that God has set you on? How hard is it to break down a path that others do not understand?
 - B. Did you realize that "Locust & Wild Honey" are actually byproducts of trees and not bee honey and bugs?
 - C. How could you set a symbol, like the Elijah chair, as a physical reminder of the presence and Kingdom of God in your home or at special occasions?

- III. The Wilderness - Read Leviticus 16: 20-22.
 - A. Were you aware that this is the origin of the term "scape goat?" With so many "sinful" goats running into the wilderness, how might that affect one's opinion of the Wilderness?
 - B. All of the other Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) include the temptations of Jesus. Who does Jesus struggle with in the wilderness? What in your life has been a "wilderness" where it seems you have had to face Satan face-to-face?

- IV. Messiah - In John 1: 1-40-43, Andrew tells his brother Peter that he has found the Messiah, which in Greek is the word “Christos.” The literal meaning is anointed. Look at these passages to see how its meaning has flowed:
- A. I Samuel 9:16 - Saul’s anointing
 - B. I Samuel 16: 12-13 - David’s anointing
 - C. Isaiah 61: 1-3 - Isaiah’s hope for the anointed one
 - D. Luke 4:18 - Jesus quotes Isaiah, claiming that anointing as his own
- V. I Must Become Less - In John 3:29, John the Baptist says of Jesus “The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I must become less.”
- A. How difficult is it to allow your dreams, your opinions, and your spirit to be superseded by God’s dreams, God’s opinions, and God’s Spirit?
 - B. Where have you struggled to become less? Have you found John’s approach helpful in other life relationships?
 - C. How have you balanced submitting to the reign of God while still retaining a sense of self?