

John the Baptist's Testimony (vv. 19-28)

I. The Narrative Proper

A. Introductory Thoughts:

1. We move from The Prologue to the narrative of the gospel in a more proper sense.
2. The theology of the Prologue can be seen as separate but is the preface of the entire book that the rest of it stands upon.

B. John Questioned (vv. 19-22)

1. What we see here in the questioning to John the Baptist from the Jew's priests and Levites is not an informal occasion but a formal, nearly court-like setting via cross examination.
2. This was an intentional religious meeting from the religious leaders of the day.

C. John's Answer:

1. Not Elijah or Christ or the Prophet

a) To begin with:

- (1) John's reply is emphatic—NO.
- (2) But his answer implies that there is a "Christ," of whom Jesus is the only one.
- (3) The denial and confession are a combination of the emphatic answer, here.
- (4) That is, John the Baptist is doubling down in all possible ways that Jesus is the Christ, and not him.

b) Why Elijah?

- (1) Malachi 4:5-6 specifically is in mind here.
- (2) Given John's language of the coming of Christ, their-day Judaism had great interest of what was happening or being said since this means that the Day of the Lord is coming.

c) Why the Prophet?

- (1) Deuteronomy 18:15-19 specifically in mind here.
- (2) This passage is equally in the minds of the Jew's priests since John seems to be tipping people off about the coming of this figure in Deuteronomy.

2. The Voice Crying in the Wilderness (v. 23)

- a) This saying from John comes right out of Isaiah 40:3.
- b) John the Baptist, as doubled down in the Gospel of Matthew, is highlighted as the one who Isaiah was talking about. He is preparing people for Christ!

3. Purpose of John Baptizing (v. 24-28)
 - a) Doubling down on the aspect of John's words are his actions on the preparation of those who will receive Christ.
 - b) Notice the language of John, "I baptize with water, but *among you stands one you do not know...*"
 - (1) John wants people to recognize Christ at some point or it will be made known who Christ is and the one who will do more than Baptize with water.

Jesus' Baptism (vv. 29-34)

I. John's Account and Purpose

A. John's Declaration and Purpose (vv. 29-31)

1. The beauty of John's Words is astonishing!
 - a) Behold the Lamb of God.
 - b) What could be in mind here is the Messianic figure of Isaiah 53:7.
2. John's Purpose (v. 31)
 - a) Not only is John's Words important but what he is leading the people to is equally if not more important.
 - b) Note, "for this purpose I came baptizing in water that he might be revealed to Israel."
 - (1) John's hope is that the people would see the Messiah.
 - (2) But, moreover, the distinctions between his baptism and Christ.
 - (3) The Baptism of Christ is a cleansing baptism, where John's was not.
3. The Baptism
 - a) An important detail is happening here!
 - (1) Note how v. 32 opens, "and John bore witness."
 - b) The Synoptic Take
 - (1) The other three Gospels do not say this; only John's Gospel does.
 - (2) Jesus is the only other person said, in the Gospels, to have seen the scene (Mark 1:10).
 - (3) What we have is a full picture, not merely a singular account.
 - (4) John the Baptist is a witness to the events of Jesus' baptism, as the one who baptized Him.
 - (5) This point is further highlighted in v. 34.
4. Baptism of the Spirit (v. 33)
 - a) The superiority of Jesus over John the Baptist is put in final place.

- b) Not only is Jesus superior in His being against John (1:1) but is superior in ministry (1:33)
- c) This baptism by the Holy Spirit is further flushed out throughout the Gospel.

Jesus Calls Some of the Disciples (vv. 35-51)

I. The Significance of the Choice to Follow

A. John's Declaration

1. Note vv. 36-37.

- a) It was the declaration of John and the observance of the two disciples that played a part in their deciding to follow Jesus.
- b) John the Baptist's ministry is showing fruit!

B. Special Call of Peter (v. 42, specifically)

- 1. Andrew, Peter's brother, introduces him to Jesus.
- 2. Jesus gives Simon the name Peter, which is rock in both Greek and Aramaic respectively .
- 3. This signifies the special call on the life of Peter.

C. Jesus and Nathanael

1. An interesting lesson by John:

- a) A sort of miracle draws Nathanael to believe that Jesus is the Christ.
- b) Jesus does not rebuke Nathanael for this but recognizes it as genuine faith.
- c) Sometimes, people do come by seeing the hand of God work in their lives or the lives of people around them, though, some come by simply seeing Christ (as did the first few disciples in John 1).

2. What will be seen?

- a) Jesus says angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man (v. 51).
- b) What is meant by this?
 - (1) This quote from Jesus comes directly and intentionally from Genesis 28:10-15.
 - (2) Jesus is declaring to Nathanael that he will see the promise of God kept and manifest in Christ, Himself.
 - (a) This means all of Jesus' miracles, His Words, His act on the cross, His resurrection and ascension.