

## Morning Worship - April 27, 2013

### John 1:19-28, The Voice

1. Vs. 19-20 John's primary \_\_\_\_\_ was to \_\_\_\_\_ about Christ
  - a. **19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."**
  2. **Testimony** - [martyria] - to witness to the facts in the legal sense.
  3. **Jews sent priests and Levites [Truth Squad]** - these were leaders in Judaism who were experts at ritual \_\_\_\_\_, which is what John was doing by baptizing those that came into the countryside to hear him preach.
  4. **Who are you?** This is a legitimate question by the Jews; as we would ask if we saw someone preaching in this fashion and saw hordes of people going out to a man being baptized - we would want to know who this guy is and what he is doing that is causing such a stir among the people - and our motivations would be various - some would be envious, others truly curious to know - is this of God...or is this not of God?
  5. **He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed - "I am not the Christ"** This is vocabulary reflective of a \_\_\_\_\_ proceeding; it is as though John is carrying on his ministry and these Levites and priests come up and lay into him with questions...it is as though John is being cross examined by a prosecutor under interrogative pressure, publicly in the middle of his ministry.
  6. Under this pressure **he confesses...he does not deny...but confesses** - "I am not the Christ" - John is VERY CLEAR - what you are seeing here is not about ME, it is about someone else, one that I am bearing witness for, that is coming... "I am not the Christ."
2. Vs. 21-22 John was not the incarnate \_\_\_\_\_ he was a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. **21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."**
  - b. **Are you Elijah?** Why would they ask about Elijah?
    - i. **Malachi 4:5-5** "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."
  - c. **The Prophet** - Who do they mean?
    - i. **Deuteronomy 18:15-18 -15** "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen...I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.
    - ii. The "prophet" was a third end time figure - so they asked about the Messiah...John said NO...they asked about Elijah...John said...NO...they asked about the "Prophet," John said, NO.
  - d. **Who are you? We need to give an answer to those that sent us. What do you say about yourself?** John answers with Scripture, quoting Isaiah 40:3 - **I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord, as the prophet Isaiah said.**
    - i. John represents himself as the "herald of the new \_\_\_\_\_"
    - ii. "Make the Lord's path straight" - clear away any obstacles that prevent his coming - spiritually - repentance of sin.
3. Vs. 24-28 John \_\_\_\_\_ in preparation for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. **24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.**
  - b. **Pharisees** - the Pharisees were Christ's primary \_\_\_\_\_/persecutors and here they are the Baptist's primary antagonists/persecutors, until Herod strikes later. The four sects of Judaism developed during the 400 year span between the testaments, during the rise of the Greek empire. There were four sects: Sadducees's, Pharisees, Essenes and Zealots. The Pharisees dominated in number.
  - c. It was completely within their right to ask this question, as John was preaching serious doctrine...they were concerned about the connection proposed by the Baptist between baptism, repentance and the final judgment.
    - i. **Ezekiel 36:25** - sprinkle clean water on you...new heart...new spirit...remove heart of stone...give you heart of flesh.
    - ii. **Isaiah 52:15; Zech 13:1; Hebrews 10:22**
  - d. **"I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."**
    - i. **Matthew 3:11** - "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
    - ii. **Among you...** - Jesus is there, ready to show himself.
    - iii. **Strap of sandal...** - I am below a slave in comparison to him.
  - v. **These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.** - we cannot be certain where this "Bethany" is located.
4. CLOSE