

Series: Simply Jesus (9/9/18)

Title: The Witness of John the Baptist

Text: (John 1:15-51)

1. Identity of John the Baptist, v. 6-8; 15; 19-28.

Son of Zacharius & Elizabeth (Mary's Cousin)Lk1:36

John the Baptist & Jesus were 2nd Cousins.

His Divine Mandate:

(Vs 6) *He was sent from God*

This Means he obeyed God.

All worldly pursuits took 2nd place to this.

God's Goals became his Goals.

Greatest Display of Worship is Obedience.

His Divine Mission was to Point People to Christ:

(John 1:7) *The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*

(John 1:15) *John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.*

John the Baptist's Mission was to direct mankind's attention to the coming light.

Do You Know Who Jesus Is?

Who Pointed You to Jesus?

He Divine Ministry was to Prepare People for Christ

(vs 23)

(Is 40:3) *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, "Prepare" ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

(Lk 1:17) *And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people "prepared" for the Lord.*

Who prepared you for Jesus, explain repentance?

Repentance is like making room for someone:

Illus: Cleaning out the extra bedroom before a guests arrive.

John's Mission was to Prepare People

Do You Know Who YOU Are? RU God?

Do You Know WHAT You are? (Rom 3:23)

Do We Know What Your Testimony is?

Are you Saved?

Yes, No, Saved from What?

John's Message was Prepare by REPENTANCE!

(Matt 3:1-3) *The Message of Repentance*

(Mark 1:2-8) *Repentance Prepares the "Way"*

Do You know what you were saved from?

You have to be LOST before you can be SAVED!

(Rom 6:23)

Because I realized my Lost/Hopeless condition,
I sought the Lord.

Have You Believe ON Jesus?

Ex. the diff: Faith, Hope, Trust, Dependence

When did you Believe ON Jesus? (Ro 10:9-13)

Where did you Believe ON Jesus?

That is Your Testimony!

2. Testimony of John the Baptist: (Vs 19-23)

**The Results of John's Testimony was People
prepared to meet the Lord. Vs 29-34.**

(Lk 3:7-14) A Practical Outward change that
started from the heart.

**The Results of John's Testimony was People
sought the Lord: Vs 35-39**

Gratitude is a natural reason to follow the Lord.

You say your Saved, ...

But you have no desire to go to church?

Illus: You have been burned & you are a little leery.

I get that, We can help you with that.

BUT, in Your heart you are not sorry that you had to
miss it? Thats a problem.

Do You know what you were saved from?

(Rev 20:14-15) Eternity in the Lake of Fire!

(Rev 21:8) *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and
the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers,
and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have
their part in the lake which burneth with fire and
brimstone: which is the second death.*

WE DESERVE HELL!

God would have been Justified for condemning us!

Are you Thankful He didn't send us to Hell?

Are you Thankful He saved you?

or Do you have Repenters Remorse?

Do you wish you could go back?

Do you think you made a mistake?

NOT: *I Should a bought a Ford? type mistakes.*

I'm saved, but I don't see a problem with (name sins)

Have you Forgotten What You were saved from?

Have you forgotten what Jesus went through?

Are You Grateful for all God has done for you?

Ingratitude stops the blessings of God!

ARE YOU UNGRATEFUL? *Prove IT!*

(Ps 26:7) *That I may publish with the voice of*

Thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Are you Telling others?

(Ps 50:14) *Offer unto God **Thanksgiving**; and pay thy vows unto the most High:*

Are you fulfilling the promises you made to God?

(Ps 69:30) *I will praise the name of God with a song, and will "**magnify him**" with **Thanksgiving**.*

Are you Giving Him a larger place in your life?

(Ps 95:2) *Let us come before his presence with **Thanksgiving**, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.*

Are you Praising Him in your Prayer time?

(Ps 100:4) *Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and "bless his name".*

Is God getting the credit for the blessings in your life, or do you think you are just "Lucky"?

(Ps 107:22) *And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of **Thanksgiving**, and declare his works with rejoicing.*
Are you giving God public Praise at Work or School

(Ps 116:17) *I will offer to thee the sacrifice of **Thanksgiving**, and will call upon the name of the LORD.*

Is God your Last Resort, or 1st Call!

Do We Know What Our Purpose Is?

How are you preparing people to meet the Lord?

3. Testimony of early disciples: Vs 40-51

(Rom 10:11) *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

Andrew Found Peter. Vs 40-42

Philip Found Nathaniel. Vs 42-51

Have you been to Jesus?

Give the Gospel.