



Gospel of John 1-12

Being a Witness

John the Baptist was the first real 'witness' for Jesus. In this passage we learn the specifics of John the Baptist's witness and also discover insights into how we are to be and not be a witness for Jesus.

A. Who Are You? *John 1:19-23*

1. We want to know: [:19] Based on what John was teaching and doing the Jewish leadership wanted to know who John was. How great it is when we attract this kind of attention.

2. What John is not: [:20-21] John makes it clear that he is not the Messiah, Elijah or the Prophet. The Jewish community was expecting one of these to appear.

3. What John is: [:22-23] John is the 'voice' of *Isaiah 40:3-5*. That prophecy deals with the return of the Jews to their land and also the coming of the Lord. Like John, we all are a 'voice' for Jesus—the good news—the Gospel message.

B. Why Do You Do What You Do? *John 1:24-29*

1. Why do you baptize? [:24-25] The real question is: By what authority John, do your baptize? Other than 'proselyte baptism,' most Old Testament baptisms were 'self baptisms,' for ritual purification.

2. Baptism of preparation: [:26-28] John says that his baptism is pointing to someone who is coming who will be 'preferred' before John and John's baptism.

Why do we do what we do? Our core motivation as a believer is to be a part of the process of 'preparing' hearts to receive Him.

C. What Is My Message? *John 1:29-34*

1. Behold: [:29] Behold means 'pay attention' 'listen up.' John's key message concerns the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This is the Gospel in a sentence.

2. John's witness: [:32-34] John clarifies who the Lamb of God is in verse 34 when he says, "I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." John was an eyewitness.

(a) What did John see? [:32] John saw the Spirit descend from heaven and remain on Jesus. God had told John that this would be confirmation of the Son of God who would also baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Am I A Witness?

1. Do I know who I am? Like the early disciples, Jesus sends us forth with 'authority' to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the world. *Matt 10:1-16*

2. Am I doing and being a 'witness'? As Jesus was the Light—so we are 'lights' that reveal Jesus to the world. *Mt 5*

3. Can I share the message? Paul tells Timothy to be 'ready' or 'instant' in any season to preach (share the Gospel) with anyone around us. Every believer needs to be able to give a reason for why they believe. *2 Tim 4:2*

John 1:19-34 (NKJV)

19 Now 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."

21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

And he answered, "No."

22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"

23 He said: "I am

'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as the prophet Isaiah said."

24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. **25** And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. **27** It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." **28** These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' **31** I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.

33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."