

RIGHTLY RELATING TO JESUS: PART 2

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John 1:19-34

1. Last week we looked at the life and message of John the Baptist and what we could learn from his life and message concerning how we are to maintain a right relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. We saw that John:
 - a. Had a clear understanding of who Jesus was. John 1:14, 29, 34.
 - b. Understood and proclaimed the necessity of repentance.

NOTE: Genuine salvation begins with repentance; a repentance that is in response to the work of the Holy Spirit. John 16:7-11

"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged
3. We also established that Jesus and the Apostles all preached repentance, and we saw that Jesus commanded that the message of repentance was to be preached in His name throughout the world.
4. This morning we will look at three additional truths we can learn from John the Baptist's teaching and example.

I. We need to live a life that demonstrates that our repentance is genuine.

- A. Paul preached that, "... (men) should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance." Acts 26:20
- B. John's message and ministry attracted a lot of attention, and many were going to hear him.
- C. Notice that John had some stern words for many who wanted to be baptized when he realized that their response was not from the heart. Luke 3:7-14

So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 "Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. 9 "Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." 10 And the crowds were questioning him, saying, "Then what shall we do?" 11 And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise." 12 And some tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to." 14 Some soldiers were questioning him, saying, "And what about us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages."

 1. "I'm not selling fire insurance!" 7
 2. "Without repentance there is no pleasing God." 8
 3. "Without fruit there has been no repentance." 9
- D. True salvation involves repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. We need to maintain a proper perspective on what really matters. John 3:22-30

After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He was spending time with them and baptizing. 23 John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people were coming and were being baptized — 24 for John had not yet been thrown into prison. 25 Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him." 27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. 28 "You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' 29 "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. 30 "He must increase, but I must decrease."

A. John understood that his ministry was from Heaven. 27

B. He also understood that his ministry had a purpose. 28

NOTE: Every true follower of Jesus Christ has a heavenly purpose while on earth. Eph 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

C. He understood that the friend of the bridegroom is to step back when the bridegroom comes on the scene. 29

D. Finally he understood that, "Jesus must increase, but he must decrease." 30

NOTE: Ask yourself:

1. Is Jesus increasing in my life, and is less of my life about me?
2. Is fulfilling God's plan and purpose for my life the ultimate priority in my life?

III. We need to point people to Jesus.

A. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. John 1:29

B. Jesus is the One through whom we receive the Holy Spirit. Luke 3:15-17

Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Christ, 16 John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

C. Jesus is the One who will gather His own into His presence, while also dealing with those who rejected Him. Luke 3:17

"His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

APPLICATION

1. The fact that we have come to repentance and faith will be supported by observable evidence.
2. Our lives will testify to the fact that we have turned from sin, self, and the world, and that we have embraced Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
3. Our lives will also demonstrate growth in Christlikeness and manifest the fruit of the Spirit.
4. Our lives and our words will point others to Jesus.
5. Our lives will declare, "It is all about Him, and not me."