

THE WITNESS

John 1:6-8

Introduction:

1. God Sent this Witness – John the Baptist (John 1:6)

A) John's life and ministry were by Divine appointment

> Like other prophets (Jeremiah 1:4-5)

> God's sovereignty leaves no room for human pride (1 Corinthians 4:7)

APPLICATION: Although we don't have it recorded in the Bible for us to read, God gave you life, gifts, and has a ministry for you. (Psalm 139:13-16)

B) John's ministry had been promised about 700 years before he was even born (Isaiah 40)

> The context for Isaiah's prophecy about John (Isaiah 39:6-7)

> The message from God

Comfort, yes, comfort my people," says your God.

* In light of the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of her people what hope could there be of her return? (Isaiah 40:12-15, 21-23)

> The messenger from God

Isaiah doesn't identify the man but the ministry

Prepare the way of the Lord

The historical picture

The messianic overtones

A highway for our God (Isaiah 1:3d)

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed (Isaiah 1:5)

All flesh shall see it together (Isaiah 1:6)

C) God sends John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord (John 1:29-34; 3:27-30)

> To get Israel's attention God directs their attention toward John

The unique events surrounding the birth of John (Luke 11-17; Malachi 4:5-6)

The unique ministry of John (John 1:19-23)

2. God Sent John to be a Witness (John 1:7-8)

A) The nature of a witness

> Define the term

> John's witnesses

John the Baptist (John 1:7, 34)

The works of Jesus (John 5:36)

Jesus Himself (John 18:37)

The Father (John 5:31-34)

The Old Testament Scriptures (John 5:39-40)

Various people (John 4:39-42)

The Holy Spirit (John 15:26)

The disciples (John 15:27)

3. The Gospel is not about the Witness – It's about Jesus

A) John is not the Light but sent to bear witness of the Light (John 1:8)

> Is John confronting a sect that missed the point of John the Baptist's ministry (Acts 19:1-6)

B) The significance of John's witness is that it points to Jesus (John 1:15)

> Those that believed John the Baptist had a hard time with this – but he didn't (John 3:27-30)

APPLICATION: The gospel is by its very nature about God and reveals the glory of God.

THEREFORE:

- 1) We must NEVER present the gospel as a means for personal gain
- 2) We must NEVER live the gospel as if it were all about us

THEREFORE: The postmodern fascination with the value and centrality of "my story" stands in direct contrast to the model / pattern of the greatest witness in history – the forerunner of the Messiah

CONCLUSION: The Bible records that Jesus Christ promised that He would return to earth and that prior to His coming there would be many imposters – those who profess to be the Christ or those who point to a false Christ. (Matthew 24:3-5, 21-25)

Paul warned of this deceiver – the antichrist. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 7-13)

John warned of this deceiver – the antichrist (1 John 2:18-21)

When Jesus came the first time they did not recognize Him because they did not understand the Scriptures. (John 5:39-40)

When Jesus comes again, will you recognize Him? Will He know you? (Matt 7:21-23)