

WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

John 1:19-28

Introduction / Background

John the Baptist had created quite a stir in Palestine

In his birth (Luke 1:59-66)

In his ministry

His message (Matthew 3:2-3)

His attire (Matthew 3:4)

John the Baptist has caught the attention of the religious leaders

Who are aware of John and his ministry

Because of his popularity (Matthew 3:5-12)

Should John be afraid or timid around the religious leaders?

They will oppose and ultimately kill Jesus

They will oppose and threaten the apostles (Acts 4:1-6)

They will oppose and kill Stephan (Acts 6:12-15; 7:57-60)

They will oppose and try to kill Paul (Acts 22:30)

1. Who Are You?

A) I am not the Christ (John 1:20)

> John confessed, and did not deny, but confessed (John 1:20)

Even John's disciples will struggle with his identity (John 3:25-26, 30)

> John's confession, "I am NOT the Christ"

B) I am not Elijah (John 1:21a)

> These Jewish leaders were well aware of a prophecy concerning Elijah (Malachi 4:4-6)

It wasn't hard to see John's likeness to Elijah (2 Kings 1:8; Matthew 3:4)

The connection of John the Baptist and Elijah (Luke 1:17; Matt. 11:11-15; 17:9-13)

C) I am not the Prophet (John 1:21b)

> These Jewish leaders were well aware of a prophecy concerning "the Prophet" (Deut 18:15-18)

Peter identified this Prophet as Jesus (Acts 3:22-23)

Stephan identified this Prophet as Jesus (Acts 7:37)

D) I am the voice

- > John's answer gives insight into his understanding in relationship to his value and ministry
- > John's place is to make straight or prepare the way of the Lord
- > John's ministry isn't about John – it's about Jesus!

2. What Are You Doing (John 1:24-28)

A) Their question reveals their assumption – this field trip is all about John

- > Why do you baptize? (John 1:25)

Baptism in the Jewish world was for proselytes

B) John's answer reveals his commitment – his life and ministry is all about Jesus

- > He answers their question: "I baptize with water"

A baptism which pictured repentance of sin against God (Luke 3:3)

- > But John directs the attention to his message and ministry

John's answer points the attention right back to Jesus (John 1:26-27)

C) John's answer and attitude don't impress the Pharisees

- > They admired power, authority, and status

John is just a servant

To those who are already followers of Jesus Christ, the Bible has assigned you an identity and purpose

Witnesses (Acts 1:8)

Ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:17ff.)

With a holy calling and purpose (1 Peter 2:9-12)

Which should result in people asking you questions (1 Peter 3:15)

To those who haven't put your faith in Jesus and committed yourself to live for Him

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Way, the Truth, and the Life

One day you will meet Jesus – you already have an appointment with Him

It will either be the fulfillment of a dream – to meet your Savior

Or your worst nightmare – to meet your judge whose wrath is as real as His love.