

JOHN THE BAPTIST – COURAGEOUS PREACHER

Introduction

- 1) **Isaiah 40:3-5** → 700 years later → **Luke 3:1-6; Matthew 3:1-5**
- 2) Those who fill a transitional and preparatory role are very important, but often get forgotten in the whole scheme of things
- 3) **John the Baptist** is noted as the forerunner of Christ, one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord – Jesus’ estimation of him was very high (Matt. 11:11a)
- 4) To successfully do what he did, John had to be a courageous preacher of God’s divine message – something that is an example for all today

I) BIRTH AND MISSION

- A) Birth (Lk. 1:5-25, 57-66)
- B) Mission (Lk. 1:15-17; 76-79)
 - 1) Turn people to God; prepare them for the Messiah – How? Speak God message (prophet)
 - 2) Mission was not to establish a church or denomination; the “Baptist” denomination of today originated out of the Protestant reformation of the sixteenth century; John the “Baptist” is a description of his work – “the baptizer, immerser (Mk. 1:4-5)

II) CHARACTER

- A) “Strong in spirit” (Lk. 1:80; Matt. 11:7-11a) and character (Mk. 6:20)
- B) Strong character found in worthies of old (Heb. 11:37-39)
- C) We need to develop a strong spirit to serve God (2 Tim. 1:7-13)

III) COURAGEOUS PREACHER OF GOD’S MESSAGE

- A) ***Identified and Exalted Jesus***
 - 1) Put spotlight on Jesus, not himself (Jn. 1:6-8, 19-27; 3:28-31)
 - 2) Bore witness of the truth about Jesus (Jn. 1:29-41)
 - 3) We need to identify and exalt Jesus, His truth, His one body, His salvation today!
- B) ***Exposed Sin and Called on Sinners to Repent***
 - 1) Prepared people for entrance into God’s kingdom (Matt. 3:2; 1 Cor. 6:9)
 - 2) Exposed the sin of Herod’s adulterous marriage (Mk. 6:17-19)
 - 3) We must convict men of sin and the need to repent (Rom. 3:23; Acts 17:30)
- C) ***Spoke of God’s Judgment and Wrath***
 - 1) God will punish those who disobey Him (Lk. 3:7-9, 17-18 – “exhortations”)
 - a) Done in conjunction with “positive” message of God’s kingdom and Lamb of God
 - 2) Such exhortations have become rare today due to fearful preachers and ears that will not “endure sound doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:3; Isa. 30:9-10; 2 Cor. 5:10-11)
- D) ***Preached Remission of Sins***
 - 1) Preached a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins (Mk. 1:4)
 - a) This baptism was commanded by God for the duration of John’s work; now superseded by the one baptism in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38; 19:1-5)
 - 2) We must preach the truth about man’s salvation today (Mk. 16:16)

Conclusion

John the Baptist accomplished his mission; he was not perfect – there were times he did not fully grasp the purpose of God (Matt. 3:14) and wondered if Jesus was the Messiah (Matt. 11:2-6). Yet he was a faithful and courageous man of God – we need to be the same today in our greater role as Christians in the kingdom of the Messiah (Matt. 11:11b)!