

One Crying In The Wilderness

Mark 1:1-8

Consider three things about John the Baptist

The man; His mission; His message

The Man

What kind of man was John the Baptist?

He was obedient to his heavenly calling. - **Mark 1:2; John 1:6**

God called him, and without any hesitation, he answered that call.

Are we like John the Baptist, obedient to our heavenly calling?

God has called us to be soul winners. - **Matthew 4:19**

We need to be obedient to our calling as soul winners (just one calling)

He fulfilled his calling with boldness. - **Mark 1:3**

The word "crying" from a Greek word that literally means "shouting."

John is described as "one shouting in the wilderness."

Are we too timid when it comes to our faith and sharing it with others? - **Ephesians 6:18-20**

We need to be bold in fulfilling our calling

John had his priorities in order.

He didn't place importance on material possessions or social status. - **Mark 1:6**

The thing that was most important to him was fulfilling his heavenly calling, and everything else was of little importance.

Are we too concerned about the things of this world? - **Colossians 3:1-2**

We need to get our priorities in order.

What have we learned about the man?

He was obedient to his heavenly calling.

He fulfilled his calling with boldness.

He had his priorities in order.

We need to be more like John!

His Mission

John was definitely a man on a mission.

His mission was to proclaim a message. - **Mark 1:2**

We'll get to the content of his message in a moment

God has also given us a message to proclaim. - **Mark 16:15**

God wants us to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; that He died, He was buried, He rose again the third day for our sins!

Are we, like John, fulfilling our mission to proclaim God's message?

John's mission was also to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. - **Mark 1:2-3**

Two times in these verses we find the word "prepare."

How did John prepare the way for the coming of Christ?

First, by proclaiming God's message, he won and then baptized converts. - **Mark 1:4-5**

Second, he pointed his converts to Christ - **Mark 1:7**

While John did make disciples, he clearly did not make these disciples for himself (so that he would have a following), but he made them so that he could later point them to Christ. - **John 1:29-31**

Are we proclaiming God's message & winning converts to Christ?

Jesus founded His church during His earthly ministry.

Often we point to Pentecost (**Acts 2**) as the beginning of His Church

But Jesus began during His earthly ministry, as he called his disciples - **Matthew 4:19**

But who were these men whom Jesus called out?

They were men who had been won and baptized by John.

One way of explaining John's ministry is to say that he prepared the material which Jesus later used to found His church.

Once Jesus began His public ministry, John began to fade off the scene his mission fulfilled - **John 3:25-30**

John's mission was two-fold.

He was sent to proclaim a message.

He was also sent to prepare the way for the coming of Christ.

His Message

John's primary mission was to proclaim a message, what was his message?

Summarized with two words - GET READY!

That's what the word "prepare" means, to "get ready." - **Mark 1:3**

"Get ready, because Jesus (the Messiah) is coming soon!"

How does one get ready for the coming of Christ? Repent! - **Matthew 3:1-2**

John's message was a message of repentance.

Here "Repent" literally means to "think differently" or to "reconsider."

It means to have a change of mind or a change of heart.

Turn away from a life of sin and self-centeredness and to turn to Christ.

This is the same message that we, as believers today, should be proclaiming, "Get ready (repent), because Jesus is coming soon!"

John spoke his first coming; Bible tells us that Jesus is coming again! - **1Thessalonians 4:14-17**

We need to be telling about His coming and warning them to get ready.

What Can We Learn From John The Baptist?

He was a man who was obedient to his heavenly calling, fulfilled his calling with boldness, and had his priorities in order.

His mission - Proclaim a message; Prepare the way for coming of Christ.

His message "Get ready, because Christ is coming soon!"

Sounds a lot like what we are to be doing even today!

Unknown