

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Sep 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #2: John's Testimony

What do you think of when you hear someone talk about a "testimony?"

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read John 1:15-18

Note: In Jesus day the older person was given respect and regarded as greater than the younger. People would normally have ranked Jesus lower in respect. John the Baptist implies that as "the Word" Jesus existed before he was born on earth... (thus the term "older than dirt?")

1. What was the role of John the Baptist?
2. Why do you think that John knew what to say about Jesus?
3. Why did people listen to him?

Read John 1:19-23

Note: Levites were descendants of the tribe of Levi, responsible for teaching and other tasks related to the tabernacle. The Christ means "the Anointed One" and to the Jews it meant "The Messiah."

4. Why would the Jewish leaders be concerned about an "unauthorized" teacher?
5. Why did people think John the Baptist was the Christ? Elijah? 2 Ki 2:11, Mal 4:5, Mt 17:10-13
The prophet? Dt 18:15

Read John 1:24-28

Note: Baptism only applied to Gentile converts to Judaism. Loosing sandal thongs was such a menial task that only a slave would do it. Disciples of rabbis were expressly excluded from this task.

6. What was behind the Pharisees' cynical question (Vv 24-25)? John's evasive answer? What was his purpose in baptizing (Vv 29-31)?
7. How is John's baptism different than what we practice today?

Read John 1:29-34

Note: The lamb probably refers to the Passover lamb. Gen 22:8; Ex 12:13; Isa 53:6-7

8. How does John describe Jesus? Vs 29
9. Why is the Passover lamb, a Jewish tradition, so significant to Christians at Easter? 1 Cor 5:7; 2 Cor 5:21

APPLICATION

Jesus' invitation "Come and you will see" is just as valid today as 2000 years ago. Are you in the habit of telling others all He has done for you (*your* testimony)?

"The method of John in presenting his proof [that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God] is not that of a logical treatise or philosophical argument; he has rather presented a drama. The life of Christ, which is the substance of his Gospel, is written with the fascination of a play; but as each actor steps upon the scene some new testimony is borne to the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. And as the testimony is produced, and as Christ makes his claim and works his miracles, we see the developing faith of his followers and the deepening hatred of his enemies."

(Charles R. Erdman, *The Gospel of John*, p. 11)