

iii.in order that Jesus might be revealed to Israel.

iv. *I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One.*

a) 1 Samuel 16:1-13

b) Isaiah 42:1-4

C. What is your testimony?

i. Does your testimony point to Jesus? Does it call people to behold Jesus?

ii. How do we bring people to faith?

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Read the text of John 1:19-28. What is surprising? What stands out to you? What can we learn about being witness to Jesus from John?
- In our text, what does John the apostle (and the Baptist) present as necessary for us? What is necessary for faith?
- What must we understand about ourselves in order to be effective witnesses?
- How might John provide preachers with a good model for preaching? In particular, why might he provide a paradigm for expository preaching?
- Discuss what it means that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world? How does this speak to your need? The needs of those we know?
- Does your testimony point people to Jesus? How might it do so more effectively?
- What role might we play in bringing people to faith in Jesus?

The Word Became Flesh (Part 4)

John Bears Witness to Jesus

Jerry Cisar — January 1, 2017

Text: John 1:19-34

Introduction

A. John 1:8 may provide the outline for our sermon today.

i. Vs. 19-28 develop 8a: *He himself was not the light...*

ii. Vs. 29-34 fulfill 8b: *he came only as a witness to the light.*

iii. V7 tells us the ultimate purpose: *so that through him [Jesus?] all might believe.*

B. *What does it mean to be a witness... to testify about Jesus?*

i. *What must we understand about ourselves?*

ii. *What is necessary for others to have faith?*

I. Who are you? (19-28)

A. John's Testimony about Himself (19-28)

i. *"Who are you?" "He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, 'I am not the Christ.'" (ESV 1:19c-20)*

a) *Elijah or the Prophet? (21)*

➤ *Isaiah 43:10, 12; 44:8*

➤ *John's denial and Matthew 11:14*

When God calls us, he does not tell us everything about our call at once.

- b) *What do you say about yourself?"*
 - John allows the words of Scripture to speak through him. (23)
- ii. John does what all preachers should do.
 - a) He will not allow himself to be exalted.
 - b) He knows he is merely "a voice."

John may be the first example of expository preaching in Scripture. He certainly models for preachers what our duty is. It is the duty of the preacher not to come up with great sermons, or even great ideas which can be made into sermons. It is the duty of preachers to give voice to the words of Scripture to God's people.

- iii. *Why then do you baptize?*
 - a) John takes this opportunity to get the attention off himself and onto the One he really came to testify about.
 - Untying the straps of the sandals was the first step in the process of washing the feet.
 - John declares that he is not even worthy to perform the task of a slave for the coming one in light of His glorious nature. *He is not unwilling, but unworthy.*
 - John 13
 - b) *"I baptize with water..."* lacks the contrast, *"the one coming after me will baptize in the Holy Spirit."*

- B. What do we say about ourselves?

II. Who is He? (29-34)

- A. The Witness
 - i. John lines up the witnesses and has them testify concerning who Jesus is. The witness at the front of the line is John.
 - ii. A Prophet
 - a) His **commission**: *the one who sent me to baptize...*
 - b) His **objection**: *"I myself did not know him..."*
 - c) A **sign** promised and given (32-33)

John the Baptist is a prophet who gives true testimony concerning Jesus!

- B. The Testimony
 - i. John's testimony is all about Jesus and everything in this scene points us to Jesus and who He is.
 - ii. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
 - a) Lambs and doves
 - Offerings
 - Genesis 22.
 - b) The symbolism of a lamb carries weight on its own.
 - Contrast with Daniel 7:4-7

Adolf Schlatter: *Since "the sin" is taken up and carried away, the word "sin" here does not mean behavior . . . since behavior, once done, cannot be undone; but the word means behavior's continuing result, which arises out of awful behavior. Thus [sin] here means what we call "guilt."*