

Jesus, John the Baptist, and a Dove

John 1:19-34

We continue our series entitled "We Have Seen His Glory." These words come from John 1:14, which was part of our passage last week. Today we hear the testimony of John the Baptist about Christ, including something about the appearance of a dove.

The importance of John the Baptist:

- Consider all four gospels... Josephus... and Jesus' own words!

Let's read John 1:19-28. John is baptizing at Bethany-beyond-the Jordan... but the Jerusalem authorities find him.

"Who do you think you are, John?" John the Baptist says no to all of these:

- "The Christ?" This is the Anointed One, the Chosen One, typically expected to be a king. Ex: see Isaiah 11.
- "Elijah?" See Malachi 4:5-6, as Elijah was promised to return. But John wasn't the same Elijah, returning from heaven.
- "The Prophet?" See Deut 18 and 34:10, as a prophet like Moses was promised to Israel.
- Instead, John the Baptist says he's the forerunner—the opening act!
 - Isaiah 40:3 quoted in John 1:23; see also John 1:27

"And what do you think you're doing, John?" "I baptize with water..." See John 1:26.

- John the Baptist's ministry:
 - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 3:2)
 - "And he went...proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." (Luke 3:3)
 - Wait... *Jews* had to be washed? Not just Gentile converts?
 - And why did Jesus need to be baptized?! (Matt 3:15)

Let's read John 1:29-34. Why did John come baptizing? **To reveal Christ!** (1:31)

- This is also why five times the Bible quotes John the Baptist's unworthy "sandal" statement

The Baptism of Christ

- "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." (John 1:32)
 - Remained on him... Not a temporary filling
 - Think of Isaiah 11:2: "And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him..."

Later, as promised, Jesus baptized others with the Holy Spirit! (See Pentecost in Acts 2)

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Read John 1:19-34.
 - a. Jesus was glorified in his baptism. How?
 - b. Why did John baptize with water according to Luke 3:3?
 - c. But what's the deeper reason he baptized with water according to John 1:31?
 - d. The Spirit remained on Jesus (John 1:32). Read Isaiah 11:1-7, especially verse 2, to see what prophecy this fulfills.
2. Does John the Baptist's testimony matter? See how Jesus answers this question in John 5:33-34.
3. Reflect on the important life question of whose words you trust and why! Not just concerning the faith, but also at work, in the home, while consuming media, etc.