

MARK 1: 4-8 PART 2

THE MAN, THE MESSAGE THE SUCCESS.

INTRO:

- The Judean Wilderness where John lived runs from just north of Jericho to the southern end of the Dead Sea.
- It runs parallel to the Dead Sea, on its western side. Approximately 60 miles long, 13 miles wide.
- It receives less than 2 inches of rain per year. Very little vegetation.
- Reaches temperatures well over 100 with an average high temperature in the summer of 99.
- This valley has the lowest elevation in the world; from -696' to -1300' below sea level.
- Jericho, Sodom, Gomorrah were all located there and it would seem that the climate changed after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- John comes in as the end of Old Testament prophecy and the beginning of the gospel.
- He was the last of the O.T. prophets and the greatest of them all. (Lk. 7:28)
- No voice from God for over 400 years. Now comes John.
 - See **Mal.4:5**
- Israel had been called to Jordan 1480 year earlier, called to enter in as a national baptism unto God and entering into their promised inheritance.
- Now they are here commanded by John to enter Jordan as a sign of a repentance and recommitted life to the covenants of God, and also as a preparation for the coming eternal inheritance to be found in Christ alone.
- In these verses we have John introduced, (6); his method and message, (4,7, 8), his success, (5)

READ MARK 1:1-8

JOHN:

- John comes in the likeness of the Old Testament prophet, Clothed in a camel hair garment, a leather belt, like Elijah. (vs 6)
- His food was locusts and wild honey.
- He was a solitary man, a loner, strong and independent.
- John would have had the good advantage of having the education of a son of the priesthood.
- Not only would he have been taught all of the Jewish history, regulations, but also the Hebrew Scriptures which he would have known it by heart.
- He would have had the knowledge found in these scriptures of the great privilege of Israel as God's own people, but also the grievousness of sin, rebellion against a holy God, and the glorious promises of God regarding the coming Redeemer, the Messiah.
- His parents would have told him again and again of his own miraculous birth, of his father who lost his voice doubting that his son would be "the voice."
- His own early love for the Messiah and the excitement of hearing His voice.
- He would have knowledge of Christ's miraculous incarnation and birth.
- He also would have known and witnessed the misery of man and the terrible hypocrisy, of dead religion and dead men.
- Oh the lesson John would have learned in the solitary discipline of the desert wilderness.
- The contemplation of God, holiness, truth and righteousness, and the discipline of dying to self and a dying obedience to God.
- He would learn here the great misery of man, separation from God due to sin, and with that, man's great need, a Savior who would save man from their guilt and sin so there would be peace and relationship between God and man.
- Though John had the spirit of the old testament prophets, fiery, yet he was so humble regarding his relationship with the Messiah.
 - Mk. 1:7 "not worthy to stoop and loosen.
 - Jn. 3: 29, 30 the friend of the Bridegroom.
- This is a small picture of John, alone, unseen, un heard, unnoticed..but!

HIS SUCCESS:

- Notice in **Luke 3:1-4**
- 7 layers of proud humanity by passed by God.
- 5 political, 2 religious.
- The word came to John in contrast to human hierarchy.
- There was a man sent from God John 1:6
- The word came to a wild man, sold out for God, wild for the presence, will and voice of God.
- Not to the temple, or the palace but in the “wilderness.”
 - Does God speak in your wilderness?
- Dressed improper, speaking improper, trained improper, not seeker sensitive.
- **Vs. 5, Mt. 3:5, Lk. 3:7**
- Not a very convenient location, an uncompromising message, no band, no turned down lights no fancy comfortable building.
- God is not impressed with men, man’s methods, money, man’s strength or natural abilities. He does not need them.
 - Zech. 4:6; Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.
- **“they all went out to him.”** VS 5, The meaning is, they kept on constantly going out to John in a steady stream.
- This coming was not a blind indiscriminant movement of a mass of people, but the deliberate act of each one, transacting real business with a God against whom they had insulted and sinned against.
- **“Confessing their sins.”** Vs. 5:
 - “To speak the same” (GK. Lego, speak, homos, the same.)
 - To speak the same thing as another speaks, to echo his words and mind. That is to agree with someone else. Thus confession of sin is more than just an acknowledgment of sin in life, it is an agreeing with God as to all the implication that enter into the fact that one has sinned, a looking and calling of sin from God’s point of view and acting accordingly from the heart.

HIS MESSAGE

- Look at his popular message, Lk. 3:7-9, Mt. 3:7-10
 - Who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- Vs. 4, Luke 3:3, 7-9,
- **Preach:** Vs. 4; is used as a herald with an official proclamation from a coming king. Here the promised Messiah of Israel.
- John acted as one making a public proclamation of the news of the advent of the Messiah, speaking with authority, one to be listened to and obeyed. He is the Kings mouth piece.

- His message/preaching was repentance with fruit bearing and then a baptism as a sign of the former and proof of the forgiveness of sins.
- **Repentance:** Vs. 4; It here means to change one's mind, to change ones mental attitude and conduct. To "think again." And change direction.
- Repent was his message just like that of Jesus. Mk. 1:14, 15, Mt. 4:17.
- He was not after numbers as he was not seeker sensitive, but he knew his role, his message and his master.

BAPTISM:

- To **Baptize:** basically means to "place into." (Vs. 4 & 5)
- Our baptism is only symbolic, where as the baptism Christs baptizes with is "creative." It brings us into life, into Christ. Old things pass away and things become new.
- Remember this baptism of John was not unto salvation, a new birth spiritually.
- It was the acknowledgement of sin, rebellion to God and His law.
- It was an acknowledgement of failure and need and it prepared ones heart for the ministry of the true essential Baptizer and a baptism no longer being unto John but unto and into the Godhead, Father, Son and Spirit.
- John's baptism looked forward by faith to the coiming Savior and Messiah, while the New Testament baptism looks back to the wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ, who died and is risen again for our justification.
- John's was a sign of confession of repentance a "thinking again." While our New Testament baptism is not only of sign of repentance but also of receiving "new life in Christ."
- The word baptize in the New Testament has 3 uses or is used in 3 ways.

1) Ceremonial:

That is a celebration declaring or symbolizing the reality of what God has done in the soul.

- When the saved person makes testimony by baptism the truth of his salvation.
- Acts 8:38, And he ordered that the chariot be stopped; and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and [Philip] baptized him.

2) Positional:

Where the object baptized is placed into a new environment or into union with something else so as to alter its condition or its relationship to its previous environment.

- Rom. 6:3; Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
- 1 Cor. 12:13; For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body

- An example would be the blacksmith dipping the orange hot metal into cold water..
- Another would be wool or other clothing being submersed into the a dye, thus again altering its former character.
- This baptism is the spiritual and mystical union of the believer and his new position in Christ by the work of God. 1 cor. 1:30.
- No longer in the First Adam, the old man, now placed into the Last Adam, Christ.
- By this miraculous work the Holy Spirit has changed the nature of the new believer from that of a lost sinner with a totally depraved nature into that of a saint with a divine nature..
 - This is not accomplished in or by water baptism, but is the sign and confession of it.

3) Metaphorical.

In type of figure, that is symbolic.

- Mt. 20:22, But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, [a] and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"
- Let me say again, we must remember that John's baptism was not what we know of or think of as the Christian, born again, baptism.
- Johns was a baptism connected with Israel and its acceptance and keeping of the law and a faithful looking forward to their coming Messiah and deliverer.

APPLICATION/CONCLUSION:

- These things are the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.
- The calling and discipline of the man of God.
- The voice of God in my wilderness.
- Am I following? Sold out for the mission God has sent me on.
- THERE WAS A MAN, A WOMAN, AN YOUTH SENT FROM GOD!