

John Part 1

The Gospel of John is heralded as a great starting point for any new believer and a great source of power for all other believers. The Apostle John was the closest disciple to Christ and out of his intimate relationship with the Lord he wrote to us as he was “carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pt. 1:21).

In chapter one, John the Baptist is referred to as “the voice of one calling in the wilderness”. His calling was to “prepare the way of the Lord” (1:23). John the Baptizer was a voice of preparation. His main calling in ministry was to prepare others for the public yet, also very personal arrival of Christ. Preparation was central to John the Baptizer’s life. He invested his life preparing to prepare other’s to receive “Christ as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world” (1:29) So important was this calling that once it was fulfilled, John’s life ended. He seemingly could not top what he had accomplished.

John became a “voice” for the Father because he was sensitive to the “voice” of the Father. John knew the exhilaration of discerning God’s voice because he was a man committed to the scripture. The action steps/questions below are meant to help us prepare for the challenge before us:

- Am I willing to commit and submit to a process that will take both self- discipline and self-control? (Gal. 5:22)
- Am I willing to falter without condemnation?
- Do I really want to discern the “voice of God” and in turn discover and enhance my personal “voice” to those in the “wilderness”?

Assignment for week 1

- Read John chapter 1 on three separate days
- Attend or watch the worship service on Sunday, May 10th, or watch/listen online soon thereafter
- Pray the Prayer of Preparation below until it becomes your own.

Prayer for the Week:

Lord, let me hear your voice. Speak to me Father for your servant is listening. Make straight the way for me to know you in a richer manner. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection... I seek you that you may be found. I seek you without strings attached. I just want you and a deep desire for your word. Let's journey together. Let me hear from you that others will hear of you through me. Oh Lord, prepare me to prepare others to receive Christ. — Prepare me for this challenge. Amen.