

Morning Sermon 7/10/2022 –  
“I Am NOT...” John 1:6-8 & :19-28

Jesus is the Great I AM, John the Baptist, and all other true ministers; the I am  
notes...

“OUR wisdom, in so far as it ought to be deemed true and solid wisdom, consists almost  
entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves.” John Calvin

*Here, in John’s Gospel, we have an early sample of both, we start with knowledge of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, the Eternal Word, He is God and yet we also have lessons about “a man sent from  
God,...” in John the Baptist ... Godly men like John the Baptist are good examples for us. He is a  
man sent from God, therefore he must be humble, and so should we -*

*1. John the Apostle writes about John the Baptist –*

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> This man came for a witness, to bear  
witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but was sent to  
bear witness of that Light. John 1:6–8 (NKJV)

1. Last week I told you about the Word, Who is Eternal, Who is with God, Who was and is  
God ....

2. This week we will speak about “a man” ... <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God ...  
whose name was John.

3. John was:

- A. sent from God
- B. to bear witness of the Light
- C. that all through him might believe
- D. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light ...

John was NOT that Light ...

4. We are called to be lights in this dark world, even Jesus said –

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a  
lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.  
<sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father  
in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

A. You in Matthew 5:14 is “You” plural we as the church as a body are to be lights

B. There is a definite sense we are to be “lights” in a dark world –

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without complaining and disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may become blameless and  
harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among  
whom you shine as lights in the world, Philipians 2:14-15

5. *Yet, Jesus is the One and Only bright and morning star –*

**<sup>16</sup> “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” Revelation 22:16 (NKJV)**

*John the Baptist did NOT start the “John the Baptist Evangelistic Association” ... When a minister starts naming a ministry after himself, he has FAILED, we are not THE LIGHT! We are not stars in a Christian show, Jesus is the LIGHT!*

II. *John was NOT the Christ –*

**<sup>19</sup> Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” John 1:19–20 (NKJV)**

1. *Some thought John was the Christ / the Messiah, the Anointed One ...*

2. *In Israel there were many anointed ones: prophets, priests and kings were all anointed offices in Israel!*

3. *The anointing with oil was symbolic of an anointing with the Holy Spirit, even Saul, though ultimately a wicked man, because he was king, had the Holy Spirit for a time –*

**<sup>14</sup> But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. 1 Samuel 16:14 (NKJV)**

*Yet, the Christ, the Anointed One was Prophet, Priest and King all rolled into ONE ...*

4. *Now, John was blessed with the Holy Spirit –*

**<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup> And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. <sup>15</sup> For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. Luke 1:13–15 (NKJV)**

*Yet, filled with God’s Spirit made it impossible for John to be mistaken about who he was himself, he clearly says - “I am not the Christ.” John 1:20 (NKJV)*

III. *John was NOT Elijah, at least not literally –*

**<sup>21</sup> And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” John 1:21 A (NKJV)**

1. *Now the same angel who spoke to Zacharias about John being filled with the Holy Spirit, also said ...*

**<sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1:16–17 (NKJV)**

2. *Jesus even credits John with this ...*

<sup>11</sup> **“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup> And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup> For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup> And if you are willing to receive *it*, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup> He who has ears to hear, let him hear!** Matthew 11:11–15 (NKJV)

*Yet, John was not literally Elijah and he knew this was what his questioners were asking...*

IV. *John was NOT the Prophet –*

**“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” John 1:21 B (NKJV)**

1. *This was a reference to a prophecy of Moses -*

<sup>15</sup> **“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, <sup>16</sup> according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’**

<sup>17</sup> **“And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. <sup>19</sup> And it shall be *that* whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require *it* of him. Deuteronomy 18:15–19 (NKJV)**

2. *This prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus Christ –*

<sup>22</sup> **For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’ Acts 3:22–23 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> **To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.” Acts 3:26 (NKJV)**

V. *Who was John?*

<sup>22</sup> **Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the LORD,” ’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” John 1:22–23 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> **The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the Desert A highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; <sup>5</sup> The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see *it* together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Isaiah 40:3–5 (NKJV)**

1. *Preparing for a king, roads were made ...*

2. *John is speaking of spiritual, moral roads, made into hearts, these are started with repentance –*

<sup>3</sup> **In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ ” Matthew 3:1–3 (NKJV)**

3. *The preaching of repentance, preaching against sin, preaching readiness for God's Kingdom is required of all pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and anyone else desiring to share the Gospel (the Good News) must be honest about the bad news, first ...*
4. *Not only must repentance be preached, more importantly, it must be done –*

*“Repentance is to leave, the sins you loved before  
And show that you, in earnest grieve, by doing so, NO MORE!”*

*C. H. Spurgeon*

*Hosea, the prophet, said it like this –*

**<sup>12</sup> Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you. Hosea 10:12 (NKJV)**

1. *Put the Good Seed of God's Word into your heart, mercy will come out ...*
2. *Break up your fallow, fruitless ground, again your heart ..*
3. *PRAY, seek the LORD ...*
4. *Till He rains righteousness upon you!*

## *VI. Why Baptize?*

**<sup>24</sup> Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”**

**<sup>26</sup> John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. <sup>27</sup> It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” John 1:24–27 (NKJV)**

**<sup>11</sup> I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Matthew 3:11 (NKJV)**

1. *John's baptism was symbolic, it did not SAVE anyone ... nor does any other mere man's baptism save ...*
2. *When a person came to be baptized by John, he admitted he was a SINNER, in need of saving!*
3. *When we bring babies to be baptized, we are saying, “my baby is a sinner too!” He or she NEEDS salvation, he or she needs the baptism of the Holy Spirit ... He needs the salvation only Jesus Christ can bring!*

*We need the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (New Birth) and fire ... God's / Christ's providential dealings, often fiery trials that shape us ...*

4. *Knowing that the POWER is from God should lead us to PRAY ...*
  - A. *Do we know and feel our weakness?*
  - B. *Have we any true KNOWLEDGE of God's power?*
  - C. *If we know these two things we PRAY!*