

The King is Coming – Part 4

Lesson for Sunday, December 22, 2024

TEXT: John 1:19-34

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Ice Breaker: What are the big lessons we can take from Christmas?
 - Lead the discussion: What are the lessons we learn from the different characters we meet in the Christmas story? Mary & Joseph; shepherds & wise men, etc.
 - How do you think you would've reacted to the arrival of Jesus if you were a Jew living in those times and in that area?
- ⇒ In our study of John 1, we have been developing a Biblical picture of Who Jesus is:
 - Jesus is eternal and He is God; He is the Creator; He is life (vs. 1-5).
 - Jesus is the Light of the world Who was rejected by some, including His own people. Yet to those who receive Him, He has given the power to become the children of God (vs. 9-13).
 - Jesus came in the flesh; full of grace and truth; and reflected God's glory.
- ⇒ John the Baptist is a dynamic example for every Christian. His response to those who questioned him reminds us of our role as witnesses for Jesus.
 - John was the cousin of Jesus and was born several months before Jesus.
 - As we continue through John 1, we see that John had a clear understanding of Who Jesus was and how he was to relate to Him.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. John knew who he was (vs. 19-28)
 - a. In verse 19, the religious leaders came to determine who John the Baptist was.
 - i. Remember that John's father was a priest, and it would have been expected that John would follow in his father's footsteps.
 - ii. However, John was not a priest like any other priest. His lifestyle and his preaching were radically different (see Matthew 3:1-12).
 - iii. While others had questions about John, John knew exactly who he was.
 - b. Who John was NOT:
 - i. Vs. 20: He was not the **Christ**. John could not be clearer in his response. He was not the promised Messiah of Israel.
 - ii. Vs. 21a: He was not **Elijah**. The Jews expected Elijah to return to proclaim the coming of the Messiah (Malachi 4:5). John clearly denied that he was Elijah.
 - iii. Vs. 21b: He was not "the **prophet**."
 - c. Who John WAS:
 - i. Vs. 23: John was a **voice**. John identified himself as a forerunner for the Lord.
 - ii. Vs. 25-26: John was a **baptizer**.

1. John baptized with water. John's baptism was a shocking practice to the Jews of those days. To them, the only people who needed to be baptized were Gentiles converting to Judaism. John's message (& Jesus's) was quite different!
2. Even when discussing baptism (26b) John pointed them away from the act of baptism and to the true subject of His message: Jesus the Messiah.
 - iii. Vs. 27: John was an unworthy **servant**. Slaves were the ones who loosened sandals and washed feet. John understood who he was and who he was not.
2. John knew who Jesus was (vs. 29-34)
 - a. Vs. 29: John knew that Jesus is the **Lamb of God**. His Jewish audience would have quickly picked up on John's imagery.
 - i. First, the Lamb is a picture of Christ our **Passover** who was sacrificed for us.
 - ii. Second, the Lamb is a reminder of the precious **blood** of Christ which was shed for our redemption.
 - iii. Third, the Lamb of God is not "of people," but "of God." The Lamb **belonged** to God. It was God Who supplied and provided the Lamb.
 - iv. Fourth, the Lamb of God takes away the **sin** of the world.
 - b. Vs. 30-31: John knew that Jesus is the **Preeminent One**.
 - c. Vs. 34: John knew that Jesus is the **Son of God**. Note: "the" Son – not "a" son.

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ As Christians, we have something in common with John: we are **messengers**. Christmas is a perfect time to share with others the Good News that Jesus has come to bring salvation to every person who will believe.
- Like John, we must have a clear **voice** while proclaiming a clear **message**.
 - Like John, we should have a sense of **urgency** to proclaim the Gospel message.
- ⇒ We also ought to possess the same attitude of John: we see ourselves as **servants**.
- We serve the King! And the King has called us to serve others with a sense of respect and kindness (1 Peter 3:15).