

THE SECOND COMING OF ELIJAH

2 Kings 2:1-14; Matthew 3

INTRODUCTION TO 2 KINGS 2:1-14

- ✓ Both John and Elijah had similar dress (2 Kings 1:8 with Matthew 3:4)
- ✓ Both Elijah and John the Baptist had “woman” problems (Jezebel & Herodias).
- ✓ Both Elijah and John anointed successors in the Jordan River and the heavens opened.

What is the biggest difference between Elijah and John the Baptist?

“Understanding the relationship between the Old and the New Testaments is perhaps the master key that opens the door to understanding the Bible.”

-Raymond Dillard, *Faith in the Face of Apostasy* p.1

I. THE PURPOSE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST’S LIFE AND MESSAGE WAS TO “_____ THE WAY FOR THE LORD” (Matthew 3:3 with Isaiah 40:3,9,10).

II. THE PURPOSE OF JOHN’S _____ CORRESPONDED WITH THE PURPOSE OF HIS LIFE AND MESSAGE

- When God visited His people at Mount Sinai; they had to wash (Exodus 19:7-17).
- John’s message and sign were inseparably related. Word and sign go hand and hand.
 - Elijah spoke the word: “no rain,” and there was no rain.
 - When Elijah said, “Yahweh is God” – the sign was fire from heaven (1 Kings 18:38-39).
 - “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven” (2 Kings 1:9-15).
 - “I am the bread of life,” (John 6:35) “I am the light of the world,” (John 8:12; 9:5) and “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25-26).
- John the Baptist didn’t have any miracles, but he had the sign of baptism.
- Washing with water was one of the requirements of priests before they entered into the house of God (Exodus 30:17-21).

(OVER **Z**)

III. IDENTIFYING OURSELVES WITH JOHN IN THE SERVICE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, "I AM NOT FIT TO REMOVE HIS SANDALS" (Matthew 3:11).

A. "Every service which a slave performs for his master shall a disciple do for his teacher except the loosing of his sandal-thong" (rabbinic saying).

B. The Emperor Caligula would sometimes insult senators by causing them to wait on him in the garment of a slave.

C. The greatest of the Old Testament prophets was not fit to remove Jesus' sandals.

In what areas of your life aren't you "respected"?

Dr. William H. Willimon wrote: "Last week, I saw an advertisement entitled, 'CAPPUCCINO AND CHRIST.' Under a coffee mug the ad read: "Sleep a little later, throw on some jeans, have a hot cup of Joe, listen to some great music and get together for some wonderful fellowship. _____ Church invites you to join us for a unique service that offers an alternative. No pressures, no commitments, no hassle. All we ask is that you to give us forty-five minutes of your Sunday."

D. "Christian consumerism" and doing it "my way."

Luke 17:7-10 (cf. Luke 12:35-37)

7 "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? [NO]

8 Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? [YES]

9 Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? [NO]

10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Have you been baptized? Have you repented of your sins? Have you beheld the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world? If not, repent of your sin, be baptized, and commit your life to Jesus Christ.

What are the similarities between John the Baptist and Elijah? What are the differences?

What was the Old Testament significance of John's baptism?

What areas of your life aren't you "respected"? Why shouldn't this be something that bothers the Christian? (cf. Colossians 3:17)

Have you been influenced by the consumerism of our culture? What areas of your life are you tempted to think of yourself as a consumer instead of as an unworthy servant?

"In 1986, America still had more high schools than shopping centers. Less than fifteen years later, we have more than twice as many shopping centers as high schools...In fact, seventy percent of us visit malls each week, more than attend houses of worship" (De Graaf, Wann, Naylor *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic* [2001] p.13)

Prepared by Pastor Aaron Goerner (11/9/2003). See Dt.33:8-10; Ezra 7:10; Malachi 2:7; Acts 17:11; Col.1:28,29; 1 Tim.4:12-16.
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