



FRESH ENCOUNTER

IDENTITY ISSUES

JULY 10, 2024 | MATT CHAPPELL

And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? 20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. 21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. 22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? 23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. 24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? 26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; 27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing. 29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. 32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. 34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God." (John 1:19-34)

John the Baptist

that prophet Deut 18: 15-18

Lamb of God

one who is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit

- Who is Jesus? every person must answer
- Who is John? (Mt 11:10)
  - \* none greater among those born of women
  - \* Mt 21:25-28 is baptism of John from heaven or men
  - x "we cannot tell"

- People of Israel expected Elijah to come before Messiah would come

## INTRODUCTION

- After 400 years, one man rises up to preach (Jn 1:19, 21-23, Mt 14:5)  
\* people counted John the prophet  
\* but Jewish leaders only ask questions

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

"Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." (Psalm 100:3)

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." (Romans 8:16) Holy Spirit witnesses to Christian

## 1. UNDERSTAND WHO YOU Are Not (negative)

**Quote:** "As late as A.D. 250 the Clementine Recognitions tell us that there were some of John's disciples who preached about him as if their master was the Messiah."—**William Barclay**

prophecy "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." (Malachi 4:5)

"For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come." (Matthew 11:13-14)

that prophet "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;" (Deuteronomy 18:15) prophecy of Messiah

"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." (Galatians 6:3-4)

"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10)

## 2. UNDERSTAND WHO YOU Are (positive)

**Quote:** "I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am."

—**John Newton**

- Is 40:3 Comfort my people... the voice of him who cries in the wilderness. Prepare the way of the Lord

- Jesus is the High Priest of the new covenant
- \* Behold the Lamb of God who takes away sin
- \* He was before (existed before John)
- \* This is He who baptizes with Holy Spirit

### 3. UNDERSTAND WHO Jesus IS

Jesus

"Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first High Priest for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when Priest he offered up himself." (Hebrews 7:27) Heb 7:14, 17, 22, 26

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." (Isaiah 53:7)

"Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." (Revelation 5:12-13) Jesus in heaven

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be new Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13) new covenant

**Quote:** "In naming Him 'The Son of God,' the Baptist speaks with unclouded vision: he means nothing less than the full Christian doctrine that the Man Jesus is also the eternal Son of the eternal Father, co-equal, co-eternal." — Richard Trench

"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:15-18) Jesus the Christ  
the Son of God

### CONCLUSION

- God the Father reveals to the heart that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 2:36)
- the Father also reveals that Jesus is the Son of the living God (Jn 6:68-69)