

Who You Are 2018-11-04

John 1:22-23

So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said.

Jungle Jam & Friends: Gruffy Bear, Sully Aardvark, Millard Monkey, Nozzles Elephant

- Trying to be what they are not = ineffective and frustrated.
- John the Baptist knew who wasn't/was = effectively live for glory of God.

John 1:19-21

Baptizing 100's, perhaps 1000's with baptism of repentance.

- Jealous, arrogant (sent priests) religious "big boys" checked him out.
- John the Baptist opportunity to grasp power and exalt self rather than the Christ.
 - world gives opportunity to esteem self more highly than ought.
- Instead of viewing himself highly, John the Baptist viewed himself rightly: knew who he wasn't and was because he put his hope in coming Messiah.

Not ask directly, "Are you Messiah/Christ?" But that was the essence of their question

- So he answers, "I am not the Christ" so they follow-up with "You Elijah?" Malachi 4:5-6
 - Does his denial contradict Jesus Christ & angel? Matthew. 11:14; 17:12-13, Luke 1:16-17

- Both is and is not Elijah....not literally but Elijah in spirit.

John the Baptist knew who he wasn't which helped him clarify who he was.

- "I am NOT the Christ or a supernatural miracle-worker like Elijah. I AM simply a voice of an unworthy sinner." 1:22-27, Is 40:3

John the Baptist knew he was a sinner and needed forgiveness, mercy, grace.

- Those beliefs/truths were reflected in his message and baptism of repentance which was offensive to racially/religiously proud Jews.
 - Being Jewish and keeping Law sufficient to save Jew.
 - Baptism one ritual Gentiles brought into Judaism.
 - John the Baptist treating Jews like Gentile sinners in need of salvation

His spirituality not evidenced by mighty signs, wonders, healings but by his message, humility and faith.

- Humility displayed in verbal response and not taking opportunity to exalt himself, he instead put the attention on the Christ.
- Faith revealed in spending SHORT life speaking about Messiah who present but not ID'd, trusting God would eventually reveal the Christ.
 - Happened next day at Jesus' baptism. Luke 3:15-18, John 1:29-33

John the Baptist knew who he wasn't and was and that helped him put trust in Messiah.

- John the Baptist knew he wasn't the Christ or Elijah no matter how much

others wanted him to be.....Humility is essential for correct view of self.

- Intellectually know not all-sufficient/knowing/powerful/wise but sinful hearts seek to exalt self and abilities....Boy's place
 - Trying live up to expectations of self/others but not Gods will bring anxiety, depression, fear, unbelief.

Gospel informs and reshapes Christians identity into who we are in Jesus. Slide

- Sinners yet forgiven, loved NOW, child of King, new creation, etc.
 - Worth, value and dignity not in our performance but in Jesus' for us.

Are you trying to be someone you're not or forgotten who are you in Jesus Christ?

- Search scripture to find who you really are in Jesus Christ.
 - Result = true freedom that produces joyful life & effective witness....both bring glory to God.