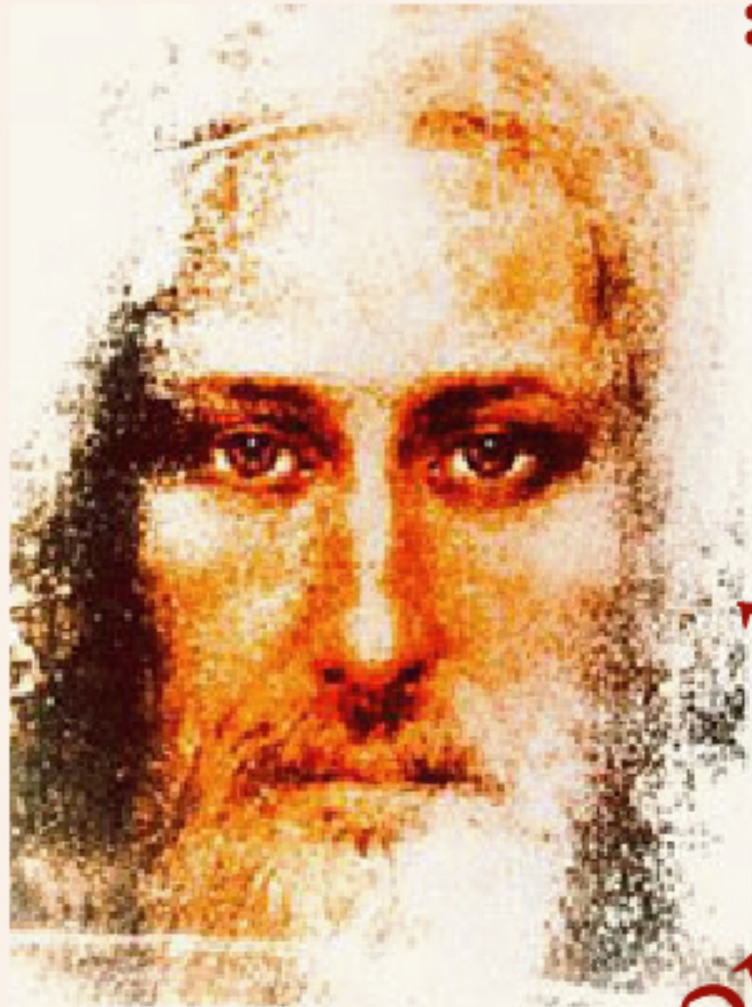


The Gospel of John ~ Part Two:



"Who do you say that I am?"

"Who do you say that I am?"

Meeting
Jesus Christ
through
His signs
and ministry
~ John 1:19-12:50

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

A crisis arises

John 3:22-36

²²After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized.

²³Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. ²⁴(This was before John was put in prison.)

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

A crisis arises

John 3:22-36

²⁵An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. ²⁶They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan — the one you testified about — well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

J the B's response

Three truths that can change your life

John 3:27-30

²⁷To this John replied, “A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.’ ²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰He must become greater; I must become less.

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

J the B's response

Truth #1 - God is absolutely Sovereign!

John 3:27

²⁷To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' ²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰He must become greater; I must become less.

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J the B's response

Truth #2 - "I am NOT the Christ!"

John 3:28

²⁷To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' ²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰He must become greater; I must become less.

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

J the B's response

Truth #3 - "The giver gets the glory - we get the joy!"

John 3:29

²⁷To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' ²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰He must become greater; I must become less.

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

J the B's response

The decision of John to his disciples

John 3:30

²⁷To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' ²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰He must become greater; I must become less.

“You can never at the same time convince people that you are a great preacher and that Jesus is a great Savior.”

~ James Denny
19th Century Scottish theologian

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

Whatever became of John?

(a look at Matthew's account of the "rise" again of John)

Matthew 11:1-11

¹After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. ²When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" ⁴Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

Whatever became of John?

(a look at Matthew's account of the "rise" again of John)

Matthew 11:1-11

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'" ¹¹I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

Whatever became of John?

(a look at Matthew's account of the "rise" again of John)

Matthew 14:1-13a

¹At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus,
²and he said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him." ³Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, ⁴for John had been saying to him: "It is not lawful for you to have her." ⁵Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered him a prophet.

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

Whatever became of John?

(a look at Matthew's account of the "rise" again of John)

Matthew 14:1-13a

⁶On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod so much ⁷that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. ⁸Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." ⁹The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted ¹⁰and had John beheaded in the prison. ¹¹His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. ¹²John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. ¹³When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.

The Rise and Fall and Rise of John the Baptist

John's summary statements

John 3:31-36

³¹“The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. ³³The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. ³⁴For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.”

“That wrath is the state of affairs that now exists in earth. In the words of the 90th Psalm, "We spend our days under his wrath," (Psalms 90:9). We do what feels good to us, what we think is right, but we find ourselves continuing to be filled with emptiness, depression, hurt, anger, pain and death. The wrath of God is upon man because what we are is producing the agony and the hurt of life. We can choose to go on that way all our life if we want to; or, when we hear of the work, the words and the person of Jesus, we can choose life, life that consists of love, joy, and peace. That is the threefold inheritance of every believer. We can all have those any moment, in any circumstances. Love, joy, and peace. That is our inheritance in him.”

~ Ray C. Stedman
Pastor of Peninsula Bible Church,
Palo Alto, CA (1950-1990)