

## John 1:15-31 – The Ministry of John the Baptist, Part 4

### Introduction: Review

1. John the Baptist was a Good News Preacher
2. He came in the likeness of Elijah
3. His message was powerful and blunt – *Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*
4. He confronted Sinners – *You brood of vipers*
5. He came as the forerunner to the Messiah – *prepare the way of the LORD*
6. He came to make God's people ready for the revelation of their Redeemer
7. John the Baptist was the POINTER to Jesus

**Main Truth: The preeminence and supremacy of Jesus Christ means that He is God in the flesh, the Lamb of God, the Only One qualified to take the sins of the world.**

### John the Baptist's Denials (Luke 3:15, John 1:19-24)

1. Many wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah
2. The Sanhedrin organized a delegation to go inquire about him – who was this strange man?
3. John's Disavowal of himself
  - a. *I am not the Messiah* – this is freeing humility
  - b. *I am not Elijah* Reincarnated
    - i. They alluded to **Malachi 4:5** – God's promise that Elijah would come
    - ii. The people expected *literal* Elijah to come before the Messiah came
    - iii. Jesus says John *IS* Elijah to come – but John denies it – He denies being *literally* Elijah
    - iv. John came in the spirit of Elijah (**Luke 1:16-17a**)
  - c. *I am not the Prophet* – alluding to **Deut 18:18**
    - i. The people expected a great prophet like Moses to appear
    - ii. Jesus is that Prophet they were expecting (**Acts 3**)

### John the Baptist's Affirmation (23-28)

1. *I am the Voice Crying in the Wilderness*; I am no one – a nobody – Just a Voice
2. I prepare the King's Highway for the revelation of God
3. I prepare the Lord's people to receive their King
4. I baptize to reveal the One Mightier than I am – He is coming, He is Yahweh in the flesh

## The Preeminence & Supremacy of Jesus Christ (15-18, 29-31)

1. The incarnation of Jesus Christ made the invisible God visible
  - a. He ranks before me because he was before me! – John was born 6 months before Jesus and his ministry began first
  - b. But Jesus is infinite God in the form of humanity, the Word made Flesh (**John 1:14**)
2. Jesus possesses the fullness of Deity, with all the attributes fully in Him, including fullness of Grace
  - a. He gives *un*-diminishing fullness of Grace
  - b. This fullness of Grace is accompanied by fullness of truth
  - c. Jesus the Rock Solid Spiritual Reality in the Universe (**See Colossians 1:19, 2:3, 9**)
  - d. We take part of this fullness by being IN Christ (**Ephesians 3:18-19**)
3. *The Law Came through Moses, Grace and Truth through Jesus*
  - a. Moses wanted to see God's glory – only saw it partially ; after he saw it, the Law was given (**Ex 33:17-19, 34:1**)
  - b. Jesus is the Glory of God (**John 1:14**)
  - c. Moses pointed to Grace, Jesus is Grace; Moses saw the back of God – Jesus IS God (**John 1:18**)
  - d. To See Jesus is to See God (**John 12:44-45**)
4. *Jesus ranks BEFORE me* because He is God and this qualifies Him to be God's man for God's purpose of Redemption
  - a. Jesus as God in the Flesh is the Lamb of God
  - b. Lambs were for slaughter (food & sacrifice), not pets
    - i. EX: Abraham and Isaac – *God will provide His lamb* (**Genesis 22:7-8**)
    - ii. EX: The Old Testament Sacrificial System – an unblemished lamb to be acceptable (**Leviticus 4:32-35**)
  - c. *Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*
    - i. Jesus is the Unblemished Lamb – the perfect SINLESS substitute for the Sinner (**1 John 3:5, 1 Peter 1:18-19**)
    - ii. He completely satisfies the Wrath of God – God paid for sins in the death of His Son who bore our sins
    - iii. The World would Benefit from the Death of Jesus
      1. The sins of the world are NOT forgiven, otherwise the Bible would teach Universalism (everyone is saved)
      2. What does this mean? **See John 11:49-52**
      3. The world is the children of God scattered abroad, Jesus died not just for the Jews only, but Gentiles from every tribe, tongue, and nation
      4. Anyone in the world who believes, their sins will be forgiven & demonstrate they are a child of God