Pastor Mark Saunders
Bay Life Church
January 24, 2021

SERMON-BASED STUDY: JOHNNY B

John 1:19-28, ESV *– 19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 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?" 23 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."*
24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This week we learned that John the Baptist knew who he was and what he was doing. How would you answer these two questions: Who are you? What are you doing?

2 What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus? How are you doing in being His witness?

3 What does it look like to prioritize Jesus before yourself? How are you doing in magnifying Jesus?

DIGGING DEEPER

A ***1 Peter 2:9-12, ESV –*** *9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

4 According to the passage above, what are distinguishing marks of the people of God which separate them from the world?

5 Often, we speak of being "chosen" by God in terms of salvation only. This understanding is too narrow and perhaps even too "me" focused. According to Peter, why are we chosen?

6 How does the reality that we are chosen to be on mission with Jesus change the way you live your life?

B ***1 Peter 3:13-17, ESV –*** *[13] Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? [14] But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, [15] but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, [16] having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. [17] For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.*

7 Looking at the passages above, why should believers be ready "to make a defense" of their faith? Share a time when you have made a defense of your faith.

8 Why is maintaining good behavior and conscience important when you and your faith are reviled?

9 According to Peter, what role does Jesus have in helping us to "suffer for righteousness"? What is the role of the believer? How does this understanding change the way you are a witness for Jesus?

TAKING IT HOME

As believers, we are all called to be witnesses to the things that Jesus has done. Our witness involves us telling the story and living the story. How are you doing in these two areas? What things need to change for you to be a better witness for Christ? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to be the best witnesses for Christ you can be.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Deuteronomy 18:15-18
Isaiah 40:3
Malachi 4:5
Luke 1:76-77, 80
John 3:30-31