

It is more profitable to know Jesus than to know about Him.

Weekly Edition – Friday March 24, 2017
Gospel According to St. John – Part I- First Year

John 1: 23-28

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ”

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent

25 questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

26 “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know.

27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of St. John

Part I

- Prologue 1:1-14
- First Year 1:15 – 2:22
- Second Year 2:23 – 6:71
- Third Year 7:1 – 12:50

Part II

- The Last Discourse 13:1 – 17:26
- The Arrest and Trial 18:1 – 19:16
- Death and Resurrection 19:16 (b) – 21:25

John 1:23 Cross References

Is 40:1-3

Comfort, comfort my people,

says your God.² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for,

that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sin.³ A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

Proverbs 11:5

The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.

Commentary

Let's focus on two words, wilderness and voice, along with the concept “make straight”. Why is it significant that John was preaching in the wilderness? Perhaps this is part of his message. Perhaps he wants to indicate that because he is not in the temple, that he is not the Messiah. He chooses a remote place so as not to overshadow the place of the one to come.

Some say that the “voice” of John was that of the Holy Spirit. He is calling in the wilderness with a significant message. Clearly his voice has confidence and clarity, so much so that the Jewish elders were sent to find out who he was and what he was doing.

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His message is “make straight the way of the Lord”. This is a call to reform one’s ways, to seek righteousness and repentance.

Application 1: When asked to describe who he is, John describes himself first and foremost as a voice. What is the significance of acting as a voice, as one proclaiming a message?

Application 2: What would be the first word you think of to describe yourself if asked?