

A Man Sent from God, By Dr. Calvin Ray Evans

Matthew 3:1-15, Luke 3:4-18, John 1:6

INTRODUCTION:

The above Scriptures tell us about the first area-wide revival you can read of anywhere in the New Testament. John, the first Baptist evangelist, was conducting these meetings. Let's examine the MAN, his METHODS, and his MESSAGE.

I. THE MAN:

- A. He was a man of Godly parents (Luke 1:1-15).
- B. He was a man of Convictions (Luke 3:5-14).
 - 1. No one ever had to guess where John stood on an issue.
- C. He was a man of Courage (Luke 3:19-20).
 - 1. Prison did not move him from his convictions.
- D. He was a man of Humility (John 1:23-27).
- E. He was a man of Greatness (Matthew 11:11).
- F. He was a man filled with the Spirit (Luke 1:15).

II. HIS METHODS:

- A. His Dress (Mark 1:6)
 - 1. Clothed with camel's hair and girdle of skin.
- B. His Diet (Mark 1:6)
 - 1. Locusts and wild honey
- C. His Decorum (Matthew 11:7-10)
 - 1. Far different from that of other religious leaders in his day.
- D. His Dilemma (Matthew 11:8)
 - 1. How could he reach the masses of people?
 - 2. There had not been a Prophet in the land for over 300 years.
- E. His Debut (Luke 3:3)
 - 1. Did not attempt to preach in the Temple.
 - 2. Did not rent a large auditorium in Jerusalem.
 - 3. The bank of Jordan became his pulpit.
- F. His Design (Matthew 11:7-9)
 - 1. He did not go to the city, but the city came to him (Matthew 4:5)
 - 2. He did not compromise with officials of government, but Roman leaders trembled when he spoke (Mark 6:20)
- G. His Dependence (John 1:6)
 - 1. He did not depend on the humor and human talent of an entertainer or celebrity to prop up his ministry, but his dependence was in God.

III. **HIS MESSAGE:**

- A. A Message of Contrition (Matthew 3:2)
- B. A Message of Conversion (Luke 3:8,9)
 - 1. He demanded fruits of repentance and a changed life.
- C. A Message of Confession (Mark 1:5)
- D. A Message of Compassion (Luke 3:11)
- E. A Message of Contentment (Luke 3:14)
 - 1. "Be content with your wages."
- F. A Message of Condemnation (Matthew 3:12)
 - 1. He condemned the Pharisees for their hypocrisy, prejudice, and pride (Matthew 3:7-9)
 - 2. He condemned Herod for his sin of adultery.
 - 3. He warned of an impending judgment (Luke 3:17)
- G. A Message of the Crucified Christ (John 1:29)
 - 1. He did not introduce Jesus to the world as his cousin, or as the son of a carpenter, or even as the Son of God, but as the "Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

CONCLUSION:

Paul's only concern was the approval of Christ. He said, "I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

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