



## I. **v Lesson 3 - John the Baptist, Jesus' Baptism and Temptation"**

- A. Next week (June 24 and 26) "Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, the Call of the Disciples (two views) and Ministry around the Sea of Galilee"
- B. Off until Wednesday and Friday July 15 and 17 "Jesus' Ministry in Galilee including Healing Miracles and His Power of Natural Forces (feeding 5000, walking on water, etc.)
- C. John the Baptist
  - 1. John's life parallels Jesus' in some respects
    - a) Miracle birth
    - b) Cousins of some nature
    - c) Mother's Pregnant at the same time
    - d) Mary visits Elizabeth (why? Female relatives often attended one another during last days before birth, but Mary left before John was born) Is the answer to why that we needed to hear the relationship and that John jumped for joy when Mary and unborn Jesus came into the presence of Elizabeth and unborn John?
    - e) John is the forerunner of Jesus as Elijah was to be to the Messiah
  - 2. Gospel writers want us to know that John understood his place.
    - a) John was better known than Jesus for a time and for a long time in some circles.
    - b) There was speculation that John was the Messiah. Remember, when Jesus asked his disciples "Who do other say that I am?"
    - c) Baptism scene in John in which John says that Jesus should baptism him.
    - d) Gospel of John records, "6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man,

but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. John 1:6-18

#### D. Jesus' Baptism

1. Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan. Where in the Jordan? In the Holy Land today, there are two baptismal sites and some scholars suggest a third. The likely site is Bethany Beyond the Jordan (the Jordan side of the Jordan River just miles away from the Dead Sea). The other site is on the Jordan just below the Sea of Galilee...And the third possible site is on the Jordan River just above the Sea of Galilee.
2. What are the possible reasons for each site? No scholar that I know of thinks it was just below the Sea of Galilee. This location is just a pretty site that pilgrims have been visiting for a long time that is fully within the control of Israel.
3. Why Bethany Beyond the Jordan? John the Baptist was from Judea and his family must have lived close enough to the Temple for his father the priest Zechariah to serve. The Bible reports that all of Jerusalem came to be baptized by him. The site nearer to Jerusalem makes a lot more sense. There are ancient Christian ruins in the area of Bethany Beyond the Jordan.
4. What happened at his baptism?
5. Why is baptism so important today?
  - a) Methodists and most Christian view baptism as a sign of God's love and acceptance of every human life. Discuss baptism and confirmation...
  - b) Baptists, Church of Christ and other view baptism as a person's acceptance of Jesus Christ.
  - c) Modes of Baptism
    - (1) Sprinkling
    - (2) Pouring
    - (3) Immersion

#### E. The Temptation of Christ

1. Judean Wilderness
2. What happened?
3. Why is this important?