

Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: **The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **August 27, 2017**

Bible text explored: John 1:19–28

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He 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.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Why (vv.24 and 19) had a faction of the Sanhedrin (the council of religious rulers) been sent to report on the activities of an unauthorized teacher?

What (John 1:6) was John the Baptizer’s actual ultimate authority?

2. Why (vv.19-20) was the identity of the *Christ* (in Greek, or *Messiah* in Hebrew, meaning “anointed one”) the foremost focus in their “Who are you?” question? (See 2 Sam. 7:11b-16 and Isaiah 11:1-5.)

3. Why (v. 21) was the next question “Are you Elijah?” (See Mal. 4:5-6.)

What made “Are you the Prophet?” a natural follow-up? (See Deut. 18:15 and 18.)

4. How (v. 23) did the identity (*voice*, taken from Isa. 40:3) that John did accept shift attention to Someone bigger than himself?

To what extent is belonging to God central to your own identity?

5. Baptism was originally a ritual washing to achieve ceremonial purity following defilement (see Num. 19:7.) John made baptism a sign of repentance in preparation for the coming of the Messiah (see Matt. 3:6). How (vv. 25-27) did John’s passionate purpose assure that he “stayed on message” in responding to the delegation’s second question?

6. Pastor Moody suggested creating a diagnostic chart with *identity* and *purpose* on the left and *effect* and *result* on the right. Fill in the blanks for these identities he mentioned. Add others that occur to you:

<u>Identity</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Effect</u>	<u>Result</u>
Sports	Winning	_____	_____
Money	Wealth	_____	_____
Ministry	Fame	_____	_____
Children	Their success	_____	_____
Career	Promotion	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

7. Have you felt the tension of calling Jesus your Master while pursuing a purpose aligned with the self-esteem movement?

Can you visualize how having your identity rooted in Christ will result in a life lived to the full?