

8.27.17

Sent: A Study of John

Reminders

- **Exodus Baptism** - If you are a follower of Christ and have never celebrated through baptism, we will be having believers baptisms on **September 3**. Contact an Elder or your Community Group Leader to sign up.
- **Exodus Kids Serve Rotation - We really, really need more volunteers, particularly at 11.** If you are looking for a place to serve at Exodus, Exodus Kids is trying to place people for their next rotation starting in September. This is a place where you get to hold babies, comfort toddlers, teach pre-schoolers, or maybe learn something new from a Kindergarten-5th grader! We are praying for some dedicated servants in this area. If you are interested or just want more information, please go to the connect center on the way out and someone will be there to help sign you up or answer any questions you may have.

Scripture

John 1:19-34

The Testimony of John the Baptist

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[h] 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.

Behold, the Lamb of God

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son[i] of God."

Remember

Talk about the John Devotion Guide. Encourage your group to use it.

Read the Passage.

- What stands out to you from the passage?
- What stood out to you from the sermon?

Deepen

John's Identity: John understands his identity as one who points toward and prepares the way for Jesus. John wants others to see Jesus' glory not John's. John's identity is found in his relation to Jesus.

- As you consider John's response to the religious leaders, what is striking to you?

- How does he understand his identity? Why is this important?
- What goes wrong when we start understanding our identity (sense of who we are) apart from our relationship to Jesus? How have you seen that in your life?

John's Mission: John's mission is to be a voice and a signpost pointing others to Jesus.

- What competes with this perspective in our hearts?
- Why do we lose this perspective sometimes?

Read the following. How did Paul understand his identity and mission.

- 1 Corinthians 15:9-10
- 1 Timothy 1:12-17

How does a proper understanding of our identity in Jesus fuel our mission for Jesus? (Connect back to John the Baptist and Paul)

What do we learn about Jesus from John the Baptist in this passage?

Transform

Brian said, "Our identity drives our mission." Either our search for identity leading to self exaltation or our security in our identity in Jesus leading to Jesus' exaltation.

- What was he getting at?
- How have you seen that in your life?

What are some ways we can encourage one another to live for the uniquely glorious glory of Jesus rather than our lesser glory?