

JOHN THE BAPTIST

“Ever Wonder Why?”

Luke 7:18-28 & Mark 6:14-32

August 16, 2015 AM Service

Intensely Personal Message Today

Share with you my struggles & joys over the past 3 years

The Lord didn't heal him – he suffered terribly – mom did too

Dad didn't get to ever see Petal FBC

Didn't get to see our new house

Didn't get to see my boys grow up

Didn't get to meet Emma – and walk with us through that challenging journey

Don't get to call him and ask him for much needed advice and counsel

Mom is all alone

God spoke so clearly into my life yesterday that I felt compelled to share

with you – I shared it with Rebecca and she encouraged me to share it too

In my quiet time reading a story I had read many times but also alongside

it reading a book by Louie Giglio entitled I am not but I know I AM and he offered something I had never thought about before

Let's look at the story.

John the Baptist

Forerunner of Jesus – a prophet of sorts – Jesus' cousin – 1st voice really in 400 years – there had been silence

Already announcing the coming of the kingdom and of Jesus' coming

He had a huge following and baptized many

He even baptized Jesus

He understand His role and his place and he did that which He was called to – [John 1:19-34](#)

He Must Increase and I Must Decrease – He got it

But circumstances change – look at what happens

Read [Luke 7:18-28](#)

Are You really the one? He had some doubts and wanted to be sure

He was discouraged and his dreams weren't working out so well

Jesus answers him clearly and convincingly

Are you going to get me out here? – He was disappointed, he was maybe in some disbelief - Raises people from the dead – widow of Nain's son, - right before his disciples come and ask the question for John Jarius' daughter later on

Yet Jesus never visits him in prison that we know of and doesn't rescue him

Yet We Know...

Jesus Loved John

Cared About His Circumstances

Bragged on John

SO how about in your life? Where are You today?

Dreams are delayed or denied

Discouragement drowns us

Doubts disillusion us – questions aren't answered

Disappointment discourages us

Depression brings despair

Disbelief drags us down

Death devastates us

Ultimately if we stay here tough these will Destroy us

Then we see the next step in John's life – it doesn't get any better

[Read Mark 6:14-32](#)

Jesus

Heals tons of people from disease – He even shows John's disciples

You tell John – everything he did and said was right and is happening just as God had promised. Wow! Cool to see

Yet his own cousin John – he doesn't deliver him from prison and not only that He allows him to be beheaded – we see really the 1st martyr here – not Stephen if you think about it. He doesn't raise John from the dead either!

That's a hard pill to swallow

Yet don't we have to think the flesh side of Jesus wanted to do a miracle and get him out of jail – just like would happen later with Peter and then Paul and Silas – yet that was not God's perfect plan.

We see a partial reasoning later in one more resurrection from the dead

In the life of Lazarus

[John 11:1-44](#)

Verse 4 in particular –

It is for the glory of God – that others may see Jesus

It is so that they would truly believe – they believed to a point, but now they would believe it completely!

And yet John didn't have to see the perfect Lamb of God crucified

And remember, the disciples and we see the 2 on the road to Emmaus talking about what to them was the greatest tragedy of all times – the most unjust murder to happen – how could it happen. And yet we see the senseless murder in their eyes was actually God's direction intervention in our lives because it is that giving of His life that allows us to have life too!

What Do We Know About the Lord

We can Trust Him

God Does Care

God is always working out His perfect sovereign plan – sometimes what God does will not make sense at the time and it may never this side of eternity but it doesn't change the fact His is still in control!

God always does what is right

God is always there with us

God sees what we can't see and knows what we can't know

God views this life from eternity and we view eternity from this life

That's the only way [Psalm 116:15](#) makes sense

And It is Here in these places that we see that... where we look up

And the Lord bring us to a new place where...

Discouragement is deflated

Disbelief is dwarfed

Depression is displaced

Doubt is dissolved

Disappointment is dispelled

Dreams are directed

Death is defeated