

THE BOOK OF JOHN

SUNDAY NIGHTS, AT YOUR PLACE

BANQUET[®]
—FOR THE BUILDING UP & EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS—

JOHN 1:24-34

John 1:24-34 *Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, and said to him, “Why then are you baptising, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them saying, “I baptise in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptising. The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ I did not recognise Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptising in water.” John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. I did not recognise Him, but He who sent me to baptise in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptises in the Holy Spirit.’ I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”*

These 10 verses are fascinating and within them, we can capture a number of kingdom truths and dynamics occurring.

The first one I want us to look at is in the very first verse, verse 24, where it says “Now they had been sent from the Pharisees”.

The word “sent” is a very important word. John was a sent one. We see in verse 6 that John was a man that was sent from God, while this religious delegation was sent from man. We see the ones sent from the earth come to question the one who was sent from the eternal. It’s essential we grasp the magnitude of this reality. These are 2 completely different operating systems or wisdoms, who live for 2 completely different priorities and purposes, yet without true discernment, one can easily be entangled in the wrong operating system that looks right, but produces spiritual death.

This is what John is about to face, when the ones sent and empowered from man, turn up with their questions to the one who is sent and empowered from God. How will this interaction go down? Will there be any understanding attained? Will they violently oppose the one from heaven? Will they be confused and bewildered by what comes out of his mouth?

This is just as real today as it was then. Within the kingdom of God, we have those who are sent and empowered by God and we have those who are sent and empowered by man, and the two are not of the same kind, even though they can appear to be in love with and living for the same God.

What’s interesting is that although these men have been sent from the leadership of the Sanhedrin, the leadership themselves didn’t see it of value and worth for themselves to come out into the wilderness and see first hand what is happening. This speaks to the hypocrisy of the sent system and wisdom of man.

Verse 25 is fascinating, because we see this man sent system operating through the questions they pose to John. Why are you baptising if you don’t have the mantle, title or position of the Christ, Elijah or the Prophet? The man sent system or wisdom is consumed with titles and positions and thinks this is where authority is given in God, as opposed to our identity in Christ.

Q. Why is it critical we recognise and receive from those God sends, rather than those man sends?

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John knows who he is and he knows the reason he was sent, to which he speaks - "I baptise in water". He also knows what he isn't called to do and he knows the true position of humility, being poor in spirit, which is the second kingdom dynamic within these 10 verses.

John knows who he is in Christ. He doesn't need a title or position to operate from this place of knowing who he is. He doesn't need man's permission to be who he is in Christ, he just lives from knowing who he is. He knows he is of Levitical priesthood, and that his father was a high priest, but this isn't the place he lives from, because this is still of the physical bloodline order, and not from the spiritual line and order of sonship.

Because John knows who he is, and who he isn't, he doesn't think more highly of himself and he doesn't have to worry about getting his role and Christ's role mixed up.

John 1:27 It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

John 1:29-30 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'

Q. Why is knowing who we are in Christ so essential to living out this Christ like life?

Q. Why is running in the lane we have been given by God so critical to our life in Christ?

The third kingdom dynamic which John gives testimony to, is in the acknowledgement that he himself didn't recognise Jesus, and was blinded to the reality of who Christ was, outside of God's divine spoken Word to him.

John 1:33 I did not recognise Him, but He who sent me to baptise in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptises in the Holy Spirit.'

We can know nothing of God unless God or the Spirit is the one who initiates this knowledge of Himself. The Father informed John of who His son was, who the Lamb of God was and He also informed him that it was His son who baptises in the Holy Spirit. God speaks and it is our role to hear and be informed by Him. He is to be and become our Teacher. We can not know God the way God wants to be known any other way than this.

Anything less than this way is to continue to operate from the operating system or wisdom of the kingdom of darkness, the world, which is futile and births death.

Q. Why is the Holy Spirit being the teacher of the church, the only way to receive living transformative manna?