

**Outline for 3/13:**

3 ways we bear witness to Jesus...

I. We bear witness to Jesus by our **confession**. (19-24)

*[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 the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." [24] (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)*

A) who He is –

B) who we are –

II. We bear witness to Jesus by our **humility**. (25-28)

*[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.*

A) John's baptism –

B) not worthy –

III. We bear witness to Jesus by compelling others to **see** Him. (29-34)

*[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 of God."*

A) takes away sin –

B) rank –

C) displayed –

D) Son of God –

**Some Questions:**

1) The Pharisees sent messengers to John to ask him one question: "Who are you?" (v.19). Who are the three people John denies being, and how does John answer the Pharisees' question in v.23?

2) Read Isaiah 40:1-5 (John identifies himself with Isaiah's words in v.23). What is John the Baptist saying about who he is and who Jesus is?

3) In John 1:29, John the Baptist declares who Jesus is and what He does. Read Exodus 12:1-14. Any connections? What does John 1:29 say about what our broken world most needs?

4) What encouragements does this passage provide for you as you seek to be a faithful witness?

5) Which description of Jesus encourages you most in today's passage? Why?

**Prayer:**

Update the things for which your small group is praying.

Spend some time as a small group praising God for sending His Son and praising the Son as He's revealed in this section.

Close in prayer asking for opportunities to be witnesses to Jesus.