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When Jesus Singles You Out – John the Baptist

Not everything Jesus did and said has been recorded for us. “Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” (Jn 21:25, ESV). So when Biblical authors make effort to record a distinct comment Jesus made about an individual, it is worth our attention. Why did Jesus single them out?

Jesus said of John the Baptist in Luke 7:28, “...among those born of women none is greater than John,” a definitive statement. In the image of the great prophet Elijah, John was prophesized to come and prepare the way for the Messiah. Jesus would say John was “more than a prophet” in that his was a grand task – to prepare the way for Messiah and His kingdom. However, John died before this kingdom was ushered in. Therefore, Jesus said, “Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” Are we greater than John the Baptist? Yes! We are living in the kingdom right now! We have the entire revealed word of God. We have the indwelling Spirit. We are the bride of Christ. These are things that John did not have. Jesus has singled *us* out. We have blessing and privilege that no other people on Earth have ever enjoyed – to the extent that even the least among us are greater than John the Baptist, himself.

The above article was written by Cooper Atkeson.

“Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.” Psalms 24: 3-4

“In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me...Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.” Psalms 25 1-2; 7.

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your BALANCE, you must keep moving.”

-- Albert Einstein

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a NEW DREAM.”

-- C.S. Lewis

If there is a need for food, medications, etc., and a member is unable to get out, please contact either the staff, or one of the elders.

Let's remember all of the health care workers we have in our congregation, and those around the nation and world, who are on the front lines of the pandemic.

Pray for our president, our governor, and all those in authority in our nation, that they will have wisdom from God to make the essential decisions to save lives and restore the health of the country.

Youth Reading Challenge:

Last week: Acts 15-28 (ERV or NLT)

This week: Catch up on past readings

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more cloth you--you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:25-34

Health Updates:

Please pray for **Garland McConal** as he recovers at home from surgery to repair a broken leg, **Don Taylor** and **Barbara Dodd** as they continue to recover from their knee replacements; **Tara Brubaker**, recovering from hip repair surgery; **Scott Stork** (son of Chuck and a missionary in China), who is having radiation treatments; **Teresa Owens**, (sister-in-law to our Jeanie Haby) and Teresa's parents **Billy and Sarah Lucas**, who have some serious health concerns **John Meadows**, as he recovers at home from several medical issues; **Dee House**, from Lac Cruces, NM, suffering from heart problems; **Sharon Lawson**, daughter to Gene & Kathy Vance, recovering from back surgery; **Bill Fitch and his wife Peggy**, son and daughter-in-law to Katie Fitch (Bill has a recurrence of cancer, and his wife has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer); **Larry Smith**, friend of the Lovelady family, suffering with colon cancer. **Vida Spangler**, recovering at home from a broken hip. **Dennis Lange's** daughter-in-law in Houston, recovering from a kidney infection, and his son and daughter-in-law in Albany, NY working on the front lines in the hospital, as well as **Chris Mulliniks'** sister Cindy, a nurse in Tennessee.

Please pray for **Holly Macy, Jordan Barraza, Jim Mays, and LaJean Hendrick**, as they continue their treatments.

Continue to pray for all Riverside family and friends facing health concerns.