

The Gospel of John
Who I Am Not - John 1:19-28
May 14, 2017

19This was John's testimony when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?" 20He didn't deny it but confessed: "I am not the Messiah."

21"What then?" they asked him. "Are you Elijah?" "I am not," he said. "Are you the Prophet?" "No," he answered.

22"Who are you, then?" they asked. "We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What can you tell us about yourself?" 23He said, "I am a voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord — just as Isaiah the prophet said."

24Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25So they asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you aren't the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet?" 26"I baptize with water," John answered them. "Someone stands among you, but you don't know him. 27He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I'm not worthy to untie."

28All this happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Background

John the Baptist was the first word from God in 400 years.

John the Baptist was calling Jews to repent and be baptized.

Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!
Matthew 3:2

John 1:19-20

Martin Luther - non cornutum = no horns

Look, I am going to send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes Malachi 4:5

John 1:21-22

And if you're willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who is to come. Matthew 11:14

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. Deuteronomy 18:18

Moses was the Mediator in the Old Testament

John 1:23

Jesus and John the Baptist both used Isaiah as their call to ministry.

Jesus: Isaiah 61

John: Isaiah 40

John writes this way to point us to Jesus.

John is saying, through John the Baptist, "It's time to make straight the highway of our God."