

May 21, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The Gospel of John // S1 E7 John the Confessor
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John 1:19-28

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"²⁴ Now some Pharisees who had been sent²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

In John chapter 1 we are introduced to John the Baptist and his central role as a confessing way maker.

Main Ideas:

1. Becoming a confessor.
2. Becoming a way maker.

1. Becoming a confessor.

Vs. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

- **John did not fail to confess.**
 - John never sought his own glorification.

2. Becoming a way maker.

- **John had a clear sense of his identity and that identity informed his purpose.**
 - John sought to make Jesus known.
 - John knew who he was not.

Vs. 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, '**Make** straight the way for the Lord.'"

- **Straight:** Extending continuously in the same direction without curving.
- **GREEK *Euthynō*:** of the steersman or helmsman of a ship or a charioteer.

Questions for small groups:

1. How can we emulate the confessing model of John the Baptist?
2. What are the obstacles to confessing Jesus in a modern context?
3. John knew who he was and who he was not. His confession was based upon this knowledge. Do you know who you are in Christ and how does that affect your confession.
4. When was the last time you used Jesus' name in a conversation with someone who does not follow Jesus?
5. How do we make straight paths for the Lord to make his way upon?