



1. If Jesus is your Lord, He defines your _____. v.19-24

Who art thou? v.19

And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. v.20

Luke 3:15; John 6:14-15, 31-33; (Cf. Ac 3:22-23; 7:37) Jude 9 (Cf. Mt 17; Rev 11);

****If Jesus is your Lord, then you don't have to validate your identity.**

****If Jesus is your Lord, then your identity must be defined by His word.**

I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord... v.23

(Cf. Mt 3:3; Mr 1:3; Lu 3:4; Jo 1:23)

****If Jesus is your Lord, then your identity must prioritize Him.**

(Cf. Jo 3:26-30)

****If Jesus is your Lord, then your identity must involve proclaiming Him.**

2. If Jesus is your Lord, He prescribes your _____. v.25-27

Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? v.25

(Cf Mt 21:23-27; 1Sa 17:28; Eze 2:5) 2 Corinthians 2:15-16

****Key Point: Obedient service to God is the reason for ministry – not because it's fulfilling, fruitful, or famous.**

I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. v.26-27

****Key Point: When you feel inferior, inadequate, or unsuccessful, double down on the greatness of Jesus.**

3. If Jesus is your Lord, He orchestrates your _____. v.28

These things were done in Bethabara... v.28

- **John's situation foreshadowed the rejection of Christ.** *(John 10:39-42)*
- **John's situation foreshadowed the return of Christ.** *(2 Samuel 17:16; 19:18)*
- **John's situation foreshadowed the victory of Christ.** *(Judges 7:24-25)*

Concerning John the Baptist and Elijah...

Consider the comparison of Elijah and John the Baptist

Consider these similarities	Elijah	John Baptist
Both associated with hair the wilderness	2Ki 1:8	Mr 1:6
Both wore a leather girdle	2Ki 1:8	Lu 1:80; Mt 3:4
Both warned of coming judgment	1Ki 18:21; 21:19-24	Lu 3:7-14, 19
Both called Israel to turn back to God	1Ki 18:21	Mt 3:1-2
Both condemned sinful kings	1Ki 17:1; 18:17-18 2Ki 1:2-4	Mr 6:18
Both were hated and persecuted by an evil king and his wicked queen	1Ki 19:1-3	Mr 6:17-28
Both became discouraged	1Ki 19:4	Mt 11:2-3
Both were comforted by Christ	1Ki 19:5-7	Lu 7:21-22
Both were widely acknowledged men of God	1Ki 17:17-18	Mr 6:20
Bodily present to introduce Christ's coming	Second Coming: Mal 4:5-6; Rev 11	First Coming: Jo 1:6; Mt 3:1-3

John came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Mt 17:10-13; Lu 1:17; Cf. Mal 4:5-6) and would have completely fulfilled if the Jews had received Christ and His kingdom (Mt 11:13-14). Why did John deny he was Elijah? Here are three possible answers:

- **John's identity as Elijah is contingent upon the people receiving him.**
Matthew 11:12-15 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. ¹⁵ He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Because of the Jews' rejection of "it" (kingdom), the prophesy of Isaiah 40:1-5 (which John the Baptist quotes) is not fully fulfilled in with John the Baptist. During John the Baptist's ministry, Jerusalem's wars did not end (v.2); her sins were not pardoned (v.2); there was no geological transformation (v.4), nor did all flesh see Christ (v.5). Therefore the prophecy – including the appearance of Elijah – awaits a complete fulfillment in Christ's Second Coming (Cf. Rev 11:3-12).

But despite the Jews' rejection of John the Baptist, Jesus says "Elias is come already" (M 17:10-13).

- **John is unaware of his identity as Elijah.**
John denies, but Jesus twice identifies John the Baptist as, at a minimum, potentially Elijah. This has a devotional point – You may not fully understand or be aware of God's identity for you.

But the angel Gabriel's prophecy of John was that he would come in the spirit and power of Elijah (Lu 1:17).

- **John is answering according to the idols of the Pharisees hearts.**
God will answer men tell people what they want to hear (Eze 14:4-7). These religious leaders would not humble themselves to repent or to be baptized; in they denied John's authority and ministry (Cf. Mr 11:29-33).