

Have You Got It?

“And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously appparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts.

But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet.

This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he”, Luke 7:24–28.

In the above Scripture, Jesus, three times, asks the question “What went ye out for to see?”

Let us now rephrase that question, “If people come to see you about their salvation, when they see you, ‘What do they see?’”

“What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?”

John never answered in an ear tinkling way. When he saw the people standing before him, he saw them as standing at the door of God’s Kingdom. His answer was clear, “REPENT”.

It was the same answer for all. Children, repent. Parents, repent. Business people, repent. Religious leaders, repent. The rich, repent. The poor, repent.

When we talk to people, our message must be the same – repent. We cannot change it.

“What went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment?”

John did not dress to please or be admired, he wore his everyday clothing.

Other than a legend, we know very little of John. The legend declares that Zacharias, John’s father, was slain by Herod the Great. His mother, Elizabeth, fled into the wilderness with her new born child.

Luke, in his Gospel, says of John: “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel”, Luke 1:80.

John came from the desert wearing a camel’s hair garment, secured by a leather belt, where his diet had been locusts and wild honey, Matthew 3:4, a diet that was the norm for the poor people.

“But what went ye out for to see? A prophet?”

He was not a prophet, but he was a designated messenger.

Some to day have been called to the office of a prophet. All have been called as messengers to deliver the Gospel message.

John was using the water from the Jordan river to wash the people’s sins away. The same river Elisha sent Naaman to get his healing.

Paul, writing to the Ephesian Church stated, “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”, Ephesians 5:26–27.

Joshua had the words, “Follow the ark across the Jordan”, that the Israelites could enter the Promised Land, Joshua 3.

The maid had the words to set Naaman on his path to a healing, 2 Kings 5:3.

John had the words to set many people on the path to a spiritual cleansing, Luke 7:24–28.

We have to have the Word, John 1:1–4, with us when we need to cross our Jordan

Our words cannot be “Shall I? Shan’t I?” Our words have got to be “I am not going back, I am only going forward!” I want my healing. I want my spiritual cleansing. I am going to enter the Promised Land”