

High Level Outline of the Gospel of John

I. Prologue (1:1-18)

II. Jesus's Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)

- 1:19-34 (today) The testimony of John <== **You are Here**
- 1:35-51 (next session) The call of the disciples (aka the testimony of the called)

III. Jesus's Ministry to his own (13:1-20:31)

IV. Epilogue (21:1-25)

The trajectory of John's testimony:

- Who he is not (1:8,20)
- Who Jesus is (1:29-34)
- Sends his followers to follow Jesus (1:35-36)

John the Baptist Background

- Marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry
- His appearance was like fire on dry tinder
- Eschatological focus of his teaching
- His baptism a new thing, but with analogies from existing Jewish practice
- Jesus's baptism was the apex of John's ministry.

The Pharisees come to question John

- John answers first with who he is not. Why does he do this?
- Are you Elijah? No
- Are you the Prophet? No
- So who are you? The voice of one crying in the wilderness

The Pharisees challenge John's right to baptize:

- John's answer: I baptize with water.
- Should the Pharisees have accepted John's answer? On what basis?

The baptism of Jesus

- Jesus appears the very next day after John was questioned by the Pharisees.
- John bears witness now based on what who sent him told him.
- The Lamb of God who takes away sins:
 - How would the Jews have understood this? What did John mean by it?
- How did John know that Jesus was the One before he baptized him (I should be baptized by you) when he did not see the Spirit descend until after the baptism?
- This is the inauguration of Jesus's ministry, not the actual receiving of the Spirit.

Takeaway: John the Baptist is a witness testifying to us who Jesus is and what he came to do. John did not testify of his own accord, but was sent by God. This is the beginning of the witness theme that will be developed throughout the Gospel.