

JOHN THE BAPTIST AND THE OFFICIAL INQUIRY
(John 1:19-28)

I. Questioned by the PRIESTS and LEVITES (John 1:19-23)

A. The DELEGATION

1. The PRIESTS were concerned about John's TEACHING
2. The LEVITES were responsible for Temple SECURITY
3. Those who sent them are called "the JEWS"

B. The TESTIMONY

1. They asked John, "WHO ARE YOU?"
2. He stated EMPHATICALLY, "I AM NOT the Christ"
3. So they asked, "Are you ELIJAH?" (cf. Mal. 3:1; 4:5)
4. He said, "I AM NOT" (cf. Matt. 17:10-13)
5. They asked him, "Are you THE PROPHET?" (cf. Deut. 18:15-18)
6. He answered, "NO"
7. They asked, "What do you say about YOURSELF?"
8. He said, "I am a VOICE of one crying in the WILDERNESS" (cf. Isa. 40:5)

II. Questioned by the PHARISEES (John 1:24-28)

A. Their CHALLENGE

1. They ACCEPTED that he was not CHRIST, nor ELIJAH, nor the PROPHET
2. They asked, “WHY, then are you BAPTIZING?”

B. The TESTIMONY

1. John said, “I baptize in WATER”
2. He adds that Christ is already AMONG YOU and you don’t KNOW Him (cf. 1:10-11)
3. He describes Christ as “He who COMES AFTER ME” (cf. 1:15)
4. He’s UNWORTHY to untie Jesus’ SANDAL

C. The LOCATION: “Bethany beyond Jordan”

1. The delegation had traveled a DISTANCE for the INTERVIEW
2. John made no claims of PERSONAL IMPORTANCE
3. He spoke only of the One he’d come to INTRODUCE