Who Are You?

John 1:19-23

Introduction: When John the Baptist came out of the wilderness preaching his behavior caught the religious folks off guard. Even though they should have realized who he was and the message he was bringing they fell short, spiritually. Today the church is falling short spiritually. Before you get upset with me and tune me out, give this message an opportunity to speak to your heart. Our modern church is very religious, it is very giving, it is very generous (sometimes too generous), it is very loving (sometimes not loving enough) and the list goes on and on. These are all good moral attributes. There are problems with the way the church embraces these morals. We use them as inclusion into the church, in other words if they are good people they must be Christian! Right? This is where the church is failing spiritually. That is exactly what the Apostle John was giving us a picture of in this passage. The Jews had their impression of a godly person, and John the Baptist did not fit in. So they ask the question; who are you? This morning let’s look at this question and the circumstances that surrounded it along with how it fits into our modern church. Notice with me…

# The delegation who confronted John.

Truth will always be confronted by religion.

Truth will always reveal the failure of religion.

Truth will always correct the shortcomings of religion.

# The denial by John of their assumption.

The religious will make convenient assumptions to justify their position.

The religious will reject the denial of the godly.

The godly will always deny any glory that takes away from God

# The delegation’s demand for an answer.

They ask John the Baptist; “who are you?”

The world is asking the church today; “who are you?”

Conclusion: (request for musicians and hymn) After examining this passage and applying it to our modern church may I ask “who are you?” this morning! I hope you are a kind, compassionate, giving and forgiving person. Do you practice those morals based on worldly definition or based upon godly definition? If you are not born again all of the morals on the face of the earth will not give you eternal life. If you are not born again all of the religion will not keep you out of hell. Gods’ desire is to see people living for Him not living in fear of Him. Are you living for God this morning? Do you know Jesus as Lord and Savior? Are you supporting His work because you love Him? Are you reaching out to see people saved first and in the process meeting the physical, emotional and medical needs they may have? These challenges are not given based on Christmas, they are based on Christ. So; who are you?