



THE LONG HAUL

Questions for Application for the Week of October 7, 2013

Part 1 - Call It Out: Acknowledge Sin - Matthew 3:1-12

1. John the Baptist had a simple message, which was essentially, “Repent. Now.” What makes that message so difficult to bring today? In what ways might our message be confusing for those outside the church?

2. Ephesians 4:1 urges us to, “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called”. The Israelites were expecting a “herald” like John the Baptist to precede the coming Messiah. Is your life consistent with the message you bring? In what ways can we point people to Christ even when we fail as individuals to live up to his standard?

3. People trekked from all over Jerusalem, Judea and the entire region about the Jordan to go and hear John the Baptist. How compelling do you believe the message of the gospel to be to the fallen world today? Why do many tend to undersell the impact the gospel can have on people and what (if anything) do you need to change in your view of it?

4. Throughout the New Testament we see that wherever the gospel is preached, conflict inevitably arises. In what ways can the tension as a result of conflict actually be a good thing when it comes to the spreading of the gospel? Have you ever found yourself at odds with another over the gospel of Jesus Christ? How did you respond?

5. John the Baptist clearly understood his role, he said, “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.” (Mt. 3:11). How can we cultivate a heart like John’s? Why is it so easy to either take credit for or find discouragement in spiritual work that clearly is not ours to boast in or change? In what ways do you find yourself trying to do the work of the Holy Spirit?

Coming up on October 12/13:

Part 2 - Get In Line: Identify With Jesus - Matthew 3:1-12