

Gospel of John 1:19-28

New American Standard Version

1 For the Law was given through Moses; grace
2 and truth were realized through Jesus
3 Christ. No one has seen God at any time;
4 the only begotten God who is in the bosom
5 of the Father, He has explained *Him*. This is
6 the testimony of John, when the Jews sent
7 to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to
8 ask him, "Who are you?" And he confessed
9 and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not
10 the Christ." They asked him, "What then?
11 Are you Elijah?" And he *said, "I am not."
12 "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered,
13 "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you,
14 so that we may give an answer to those who
15 sent us? What do you say about yourself?"
16 He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE
17 WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE
18 LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said." Now they
19 had been sent from the Pharisees. They
20 asked him, and said to him, "Why then are
21 you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor
22 Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered
23 them saying, "I baptize in water, *but* among
24 you stands One whom you do not know. *It is*
25 He who comes after me, the thong of whose
26 sandal I am not worthy to untie." These
27 things took place in Bethany beyond the
28 Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Read through the entire passage once, then read again and mark the following features:

As you read, notice how different parts are printed differently. Mark each with a star. We will discuss those printing elements. ★

Circle references to aspects of Judaism. Which of these are unfamiliar to you?

Underline all the questions asked in this passage.

What do you think might have been behind all the questions directed at John? What were they after?

What question might you have asked John if you were in the delegation from Jerusalem?

Which of John's responses actually answer their questions, and which seem to be tangential to their questions?

Why does the writer spend this much time describing this conversation?

Additional Questions for consideration:

Why is the writer so particular about the geography and locations?

Are there parts of this passage that remind you of earlier parts of this chapter?

How do you think the delegation from Jerusalem reacted to John's quotation from Isaiah? Did they respond directly to that quotation?

Think about John's comment about Jesus' sandals (recorded in all four gospels; Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7; Luke 3:16; John 1:27). Picture what John was describing. Why did he express his humility this way?