

## Visions and Revelations Message 8: "John the Baptist"

"You know why I eat locust, why I eat wild honey? Because they are clean... What do I put on? Camel's clothes. Camel is not clean, it's unclean. Which means you look at me inside I'm very clean, you look at my living, I'm right in the midst of sinners".

We were touched by this quote from the message. John the Baptist is a good pattern for how we should live our Christian life. On the inside we need to have a pure heart that simply loves the Lord. We confess our sins regularly, humble ourselves before him in prayer diligently, and show loving care for the saints. We allow the Lord to shine on us, and we obediently follow His leading. It is important for our beings to be clean, not only for ourselves, but so we can be a proper testimony to the rest of the world.

John was pure on the inside, but he was in the midst of unclean man. It is important for us not to neglect being in the midst of unclean man as well, just as John was. Sometimes in our church life we can get too caught up in our little Christian bubble. We only attend church meetings, only talk to our Christian friends, and only think about matters inside the church. While it is good for us to be very involved with our church, we also need to go out into the world. Jesus himself famously ate with tax collectors and sinners. When we were saved, we were bought with a price. Jesus did not save us to live in a happy, protected Christian bubble. Preaching the gospel does not just involve walking up to random people on the street, it also involves making genuine connections with people in the world. This is not to say that "cold" gospel is bad and should not be done, it absolutely should. However, it is important for us to approach people in the world, and be approachable to them as well. One way is to be involved in non-Christian activities, which can be very positive if it is gospel oriented. Another way is to reach out to unsaved people at our workplaces and schools on a human level. This is important not only so we can live a balanced life, but also so we can have avenues to preach "warm" gospel.

Sometimes as Christians it is very easy for us to be caught in one of two opposite extremes. One is where you are a Christian who tries to overcompensate being in the world, and thus your inner life is not clean. This leads us to not be a proper testimony of the Lord, dragged down by those we may be trying to save. The other is where you are a Christian who is entrapped in the church bubble, and thus you are not able to bring anyone else into the riches you enjoy. We need to be the ones who are in the middle, the ones who are in the world but not of the world, the ones who are clean in the midst of unclean man. Lord, let us be the ones who can be a shining testimony among the darkness of the world!