

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE INCARNATION

### *Humility and Boldness*

#### John 1:19-28

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent

25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.

27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

In the first chapter of John we are given a picture of the meaning of Jesus' coming into the world, the meaning of Christmas. And right in the middle of the chapter we have this passage where the religious leaders send people out to interrogate John the Baptist. Although it doesn't look like it has much to do with Christmas, we see in John's response, some very deep changes in him knowing the Messiah is coming. Although John doesn't know as much about Christmas as we do, notice the deep changes he exhibits in his view of himself and Jesus.

#### *Questions to Ponder and Discuss*

1. Who came to check out John, and what was the question that they wanted John to answer? Why do you suppose the Jewish leaders wanted to question John the Baptist?

2. Was John correct in his answers about himself? Read Matthew 11:7-14. How would Jesus have answered those questions about John?

3. What was John's attitude toward Jesus?

4. How did John's attitude toward his role in the ministry of Jesus affect his witness? When we share our testimony with others, how important is our attitude?

5. Can we be both confident and humble as we witness for Christ?