

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I would like you to turn in your Bible to **John's Gospel, chapter 1**. We are going to talk about a man called John. This is "John the Baptist," as he is referred to.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 The same came for a witness . . . *In other words, he was the forerunner of the Son of God, who was going to be born of a virgin and come into this world. . . .* **to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.** You see, when Jesus Christ died on the Cross, the price was paid that all men could have their sins forgiven. The price was paid that there was not a person on earth who need not be saved. That is why Jesus did it - because He loved all men. He came because He was obedient to His Father, but He also came because He loved you just where you are.

Do you realize that this was a **witness**? As he witnessed, John was also bearing fact of something that had been spoken of in the Old Testament. This is found back in **Malachi**. as we read in **Malachi chapter 3**. (That is the very last book of the Old Testament.)

1 Behold I will send a messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me. . .

Can you imagine that way back, four hundred years before the New Testament, there was this last prophet declaring this messenger would come? Could you imagine what it was like to be in the home of godly parents that John had? The father, Zacharias, was the priest, and the mother, who loved the Lord, was taught in the Word and they were both declared in the Word to be . . . **righteous. (Luke 1:6)**. They were raising this

child unto God. What an atmosphere that home must have had with every little thing about it was telling the child all that they knew about the Scriptures!

Is that your home? What is your home like? I am reminded how, years ago, my husband and I were ministering on the Prairies in Canada. We were in the home of a lady, who was rather elderly to be having her one and only child. The little child was only about three years of age, from my memory, but everything about his day was covered by this woman's prayers. Every opportunity she had, she instructed him and taught him about the Lord. She said she realized she would probably be rather old by the time when he reached the ages when a mother would be very helpful to guide him in the things of God, so she was training him as a little child in everything to know the Scriptures and to love the Lord.

Do you realize the privilege that you have? Those precious children that have been enriched by God into your household are placed there that you might teach them. Not just how to go to church, how to go to Sunday School, what to do and what not to do as far as the moral code is concerned, but children who need to be taught of the love of God from your heart.

I know a dear lady and she said that she came at the latter end of rather a large family. Her mother came to know Christ in those latter years in a more meaningful, real way. She benefitted because of it. The older children did not benefit the same, because, in those days, she was busy trying to get and to be in this world, like so many of us seem to have done in the past without realizing that the real value is not the material; the real value is the spiritual. So this lady benefitted whereas her old brothers and sisters did

not.

Could it be that in your home you need to go to some of those older children and ask them to forgive you that you have not put as the priority of every day, the joy of sharing Christ with them? Why don't you take your little family and, one by one, just share with them that the Lord Jesus Christ is your Saviour and that you love Him with all your heart and you want to follow according to the Word. Make the Word of God the very center of your home. When you make decisions, do not go make decisions and then ask God to bless those things; go straight to the Word and see what the Lord is saying and receive these things from the Lord.

I want you today to see that a lot depends on where your heart is toward the Lord. Your religiosity is not good enough for the children. Perhaps you do not even have a heart concern to be right with God. But do you realize there is nothing you can give your children which is going to last for all eternity? I have often heard my husband say, "You cannot take anything of what is around you to Heaven. The only thing you can take to Heaven is somebody that you have led to Christ." That could be your own child. The most important thing is that you reach those children, and build them up, as you are entrusted with their precious lives as unto the Lord. Would you be willing to do that as you, yourself, receive Him, as you draw close to Him?

In the precious Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.