

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. He was to be a witness and 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 wasn't a person on the face of this earth who need not be saved. That is why Jesus did it, because. He loves all men. He came because He was obedient to His Father, and He 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 in the Old Testament — back in **Malachi, chapter 3**. That is the very last book of the Old Testament where we read in **verse 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 such as that John had as the father, Zacharias, was the priest, and the mother who loved the Lord. They were to taught in the Word for they are declared in the Word to be **both righteous**, and they were raising this child unto God. What an atmosphere that home must have had! 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 this child's day was covered by this woman's prayers. Every opportunity she had, she instructed him and taught him about the Lord. She said how she realized she would probably be rather old by the time he got to the ages when a mother would have been very helpful to guide him in the things of God. Therefore, 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 of yours that have been enriched by God into your household are children placed there that you might teach them. This means not just in showing them 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 need to be taught of the love of God from your heart.

I know a dear lady. She said she came at the latter end of a rather large family. Her mother came to know Christ in those latter years in a more meaningful, real way, and

she benefited because of it. The older children did not benefit in the same way, because, in those days, she was busy trying to get them to be in this world, as 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 older 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 the priority of every day in 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, that you love Him with all your heart, that you want to follow according to the Word and make the Word of God the very center of your home? When you make decisions, do not go and 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 that 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 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 and as you grow close to Him?

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