

**Prayer:** May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you Lord. Amen.

This morning we are concluding our sermon series on Nobody. Our sermon title this morning is “Just a Nobody.”

Over the last three weeks we have talked about David; who was the youngest of eight boys. He was set to receive almost nothing as an inheritance. According to Ancient Near Eastern culture as the last born David was a nobody, and nobody to be concerned with or worried about. However, God chose to turn David into a somebody. God chose David to be king of Israel.

We have talked about Jeremiah. Jeremiah wanted to be a nobody. Jeremiah lived in the city of Jerusalem. The city was under attack by the Babylonians. God had allowed, and arguably equipped the Babylonians to attack Jerusalem because Judah had time and again chose to chase after other (little “g”) gods instead of following the Lord God Almighty. God chose Jeremiah to deliver a message to the people of Jerusalem, and Jeremiah did not want to be God’s prophet. Jeremiah said, “No! I’m just a youth – a nobody!” But God had something else in mind for Jeremiah. God said, “‘Do not say I am only a youth’; for all to whom I send you you shall go, and whatever I command you you shall speak” (Jeremiah 1:7). You may be wondering, what was the message Jeremiah did not want to give? God told this youth, Jeremiah, to proclaim to the people. You have sinned before God and man. Therefore, open your gates, allow your enemy to enter and receive your judgment. The message Jeremiah was called to give made everybody in Jerusalem angry, and no one wanted to hear it. Jeremiah was scared. Jeremiah did not want to give the message. Jeremiah wanted to be a nobody.

Samuel had been dedicated at birth to the Lord and faithfully served God all of his life. Samuel was the last great judge of Israel and the first prophet of the monarchy. God had decided Samuel was a Somebody in Israel. The elders treated Samuel like a nobody by attacking Samuel’s family in order to get what they wanted. In turn God made Samuel one of the greatest somebodies in Scripture. Samuel is the anointer of kings. Take a moment to recall. We call Jesus the Christ. Christ means anointed. Church, whom did Israel anoint? **(pause for responses)** Israel anointed her kings. So it is right and good that we should refer to Jesus as the King, the King above all kings, the Lord of lords. Jesus is the one before whom every knee shall bow.

This morning we are going to spend some time with John the Baptist. What separates John the Baptist from the others is why John tried to make himself a nobody. David’s family treated David like a nobody. Jeremiah tried to make himself a nobody to get out of sharing the message God gave Jeremiah to share. Samuel was treated like a nobody by people who were willing to do whatever it took to get whatever they wanted. John the Baptist is different. Here is how. John the Baptist said;

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I whose sandal I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Matthew 3:11)

John the Baptist made himself out to be a nobody in the hopes the world would come to know just how great Jesus really is. John the Baptist was devoted to God, and whole heartedly committed to proclaiming the coming of the Messiah. John the Baptist was all about unapologetically putting God first. To achieve his goal John the Baptist made himself out to be a nobody. John lived and preached out in the wilderness. Who would go way out in the middle of no where to hear a nobody? John the Baptist dressed funny. He wore a garment of camel’s hair and held it all together with a thick leather belt while everybody else wore loose fitting robes because it is more than a little warm in the Middle East. John the Baptist did not eat like everybody else. John the Baptist ate locusts and wild honey which was not the common thing for most people to eat. John the Baptist lived in the middle of

no where, dressed funny, ate funny things and should have by no means been popular. Certainly John the Baptist was an odd bird.

John's message was hard to hear. John preached, "Bear fruit that befits repentance" (3:8). John called the church people; the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to hear him a brood of vipers. John attacked the claims of many who tried to stand on the fact they could trace their lineage back to Abraham. John insisted God is not interested in your genealogies. God wants repentance of the heart. Much the same way John Wesley argued with those who claimed they were baptized as babies. Why did they need to seek God as adults? We all need to seek God in every stage of life because God is looking for circumcised hearts and minds, and not just washed and baptized heads. God is interested in repentance. We are meant to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Church, what is repentance? **(pause for responses)** (If no responses have them stand up again) Repentance is a turn around. Turning back to God. Turning back to one another. John encouraged, scolded and exhorted the people to turn back to God. John's approach did not make John very well-liked by the ruling Jewish authorities or Herod Antipas – the current ruler of Judea. However, the people still flocked to John in the wilderness. The people still clamored to be baptized by John in the river Jordan. In the midst of all of John's growing popularity John was determined to keep the focus on repentance and preparation for the coming Messiah. So John told the people;

"After me comes one who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop and untie" (Mark 1:7).

John the Baptist was all about the only somebody who really matters – Jesus Christ. How many of us can say the same? **(pause)** How many of us can say God is more important than our need to be seen as a person of value? **(pause)** How many of us can say Jesus is more important than the discomfort we feel with sharing Jesus in public? **(pause)** How many of us can say Jesus is important enough to allow others to disrespect us? **(pause)** How many of us are willing to follow John the Baptist's example of making Jesus Christ the most important thing in our lives? **(pause)** Yes. It will be hard. Some days it is very hard. However, if we live our lives bearing the fruit of repentance others will see the change – others will see the turn around and they just might ask you why they should listen to a nobody like you? Then you can follow John the Baptist's example by saying,

'Cause I'm just a nobody trying to tell  
everybody  
All about Somebody who saved my soul  
Ever since You rescued me, You gave  
my heart a song to sing  
I'm living for the world to see nobody but  
Jesus  
I'm living for the world to see nobody but  
Jesus

Source: LyricFind

Songwriters: Mark John Hall / Bernie Herms / Matthew Joseph West

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In the name of Jesus Christ,  
Amen