

**Witnesses to Christ Week 1**

**John the Baptist**

**John 1: 29-34**

Tattoo Nightmares

**John the Baptist says**

- \_\_\_\_\_
  
- **The** \_\_\_\_\_
  
- **Who** \_\_\_\_\_
  
- \_\_\_\_\_
  
- \_\_\_\_\_

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**Message Application:**

At 90 years of age Harvey Penick wrote a book about golf. The book was entitled, *Harvey Penick's Little Red Book*. This book became a bestseller. Millions of golfers know Penick's name. There is a lesser known story about Harvey Penick that I want to share.

Penick wanted to know if his ideas were worth the effort of writing a book; so he showed his notes to a local writer to see what he thought. The writer read it, and told him he liked the book. In fact, by the next evening, the same man left word with Penick's wife that Simon & Schuster had agreed to an advance of \$90,000.

When the writer saw Penick later, the old man seemed troubled. Finally, Penick came clean. With all his medical bills, he said, there was no way he could advance Simon & Schuster that much money. It took a while, but finally the writer convinced Penick that the publisher would pay him the \$90,000 . . . not the other way around!

That my friends is a great illustration for man's spiritual delima. You see, we are all marked by sin. When we realize it we have to respond to the fact. We can ignore our sin, we can compare our sin with other people's sin. We can even redefine our sin and call it something less condemning; even more accepting. Humankind has been attempting to rid their lives of sin since the first disobedient act was committed. Yet at the end of the day God still says that the wages of our sin is death, eternal death. The essence of this death is to be separated from God.

To stand before God at the end of our lives will be a dreadful thing. There is no way we can pay God for the debt of our sins; there's just too many sins. Then we hear the Good News and realize that God will gift us, grace us. He will pay for a sin and make us his child! That is the witness that John the Baptist brought to us. *"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

We don't have to hide our sin, ignore it or rename it. We can get rid of it! Jesus is the one who will take our sins and we can be free. We are freed to be the kind of person we were meant to be. This is the Easter message.

This week- Meditate on the grand act of Christ forgiveness.

Read John 8: 1-11 Then answer the following:

- What was the pain, guilt and shame the woman experienced in the story? Make a list of how she must have felt in the middle of her accusers.
- How did Jesus respond to the woman's sin? What does Jesus do for her. What does he tell her to do?

- Now think about yourself. What do you need to confess to Jesus?  
What does he do for you? What will he tell you to do?

Have a great week exploring the Scripture.

Peace & Grace,

Wm. Lyons