

"THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, PREPARE  
YE THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT."  
Luke 3:4 Luke 7:24-26

### I. The Spiritual Wilderness.

- a. Wilderness of confusion in the home. Use to teach confidence in God. No altar, etc. Gone from confidence to confusion.
- b. Wilderness of doubt, infidelity, and skepticism in the schools. Most of the early schools established to promote the gospel from truth to bewilderment.
- c. Wilderness of perplexity and cowardice in the pulpit. Minister at Durham and one at Piedmont, Alabama.
- d. Wilderness of misguidance in the social and ethetical sphere of life.

One youth said, "The earliest memories which I can recall are of these of cutting out war pictures when I was a boy. Then I was sent to school and college in the booming 1920's, graduated from Howard in 1929. That fall I was thrown into a depression. I have never yet lived in what you call abnormal times! When I need is something to believe in, something to hold to."

### II. The Divine Voice In The Wilderness.

- a. Should be an optimistic voice. While others saw the wilderness only John saw a way out of the wilderness.
- b. Should be a courageous voice. John did not mortgage his ministerial soul to make provision for influential people to live in. He said to the ruler who transpassed that it was unlawful.
- c. Should be a strong voice. He did not mortgage his ministerial work for the multitudes - Generations of Vipers. His was no effiminite ministry of giving the people what they wanted instead of what God wanted them to have.

### III. The King Of Person Needed To Be God's Voice In The Wilderness Of Our Day.

- a. A man with a clear vision. This must be two-fold. Of the people's condition and God's way out for them. This John Possessed.



- b. A man with a steadfast foundation in things divine. What went ye out to see a reed shaken by the wind? John was an oak deeply rooted. He was no vasilating weakling moved by every little wind that blew his way.
- c. A man who is not looking for an easy job. "What went ye out for to see, a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparalled, and live delicately, are in Kings' Courts." John was out in the wilderness where the work was difficult but where his opportunity was great.
- d. More than a prophet. Here is the secret. John was not an ordinary prophet. We cannot do business as usual in the ministry today.