

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S4E11

A Man Carrying A Water Jug - (Matthew 3:1-7)

Description – Join us today as we continue our look at John The Baptist and the Essene community of the early 1st century.

Last time we began a conversation about John the Baptist, and asking the question, was John an Essene?

We chased some rabbits last time, but hopefully our listeners don't mind.

Matthew 3:1-3

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!" ³ For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said: A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight!

The connection to the Essenes is right here in the text, they were located in the wilderness of Judea near the Qumran.

The Essenes were started in 150 BC, by Judas the Essene. They fled the priesthood in Jerusalem because of the corruption within the priesthood. They were of the lineage of Aaron, they had all the rights to be levitical priests, but they left it all because of the corruption that started with the first Priest to buy the priesthood, Jason.

They go to the desert and start calling themselves:

1. The poor in spirit
2. The sons of light
3. The unity

Their key verse was Matthew 3:3, also found in Isaiah 40.

They believed that if they physically go into the desert, that they would prepare the way for the Lord, and He would then come.

They believed that there would be two Messiahs.

1. A priest of the lineage of Aaron
2. A prince of the lineage of David

The priestly Messiah would be the one who would atone for the sins of the people.

The Kingly Messiah would be the one to teach and lead the people by the law.

They would only get 1.5 - 2 inches of rain in the Qumran annually. They were minimalists, they rejected the luxury and the trappings of the priesthood in Jerusalem.

They were big on baptizing, and they would spend every third day in prayer all night.

They were known for adoption, they were really big on hospitality. They would welcome travelers who were coming through the region. If a child was orphaned by their parents, they would adopt the child.

They also celebrated Passover on a different day. It was one day earlier. Not exactly sure why, but guessing it was to be a day earlier to again set themselves apart from the rest of the nation.

They believed that their Messiah would teach and instruct the people on how to live and abide by the law. They called him "The Teacher Of Righteousness"

Hosea 10:12

¹² Sow righteousness for yourselves and reap faithful love; break up your unplowed ground. It is time to seek the LORD until he comes and sends righteousness on you like the rain.

Habakkuk 2:4

⁴ Look, his ego is inflated; he is without integrity. But the righteous one will live by his faith.

So we have to ask the question, why did they call the messiah the teacher of righteousness?

Luke 22:7-13

⁷ Then the Day of Unleavened Bread came when the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." ⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare it?" they asked him. ¹⁰ "Listen," he said to them, "when you've entered the city, a man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters. ¹¹ Tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover with my disciples?'" ¹² Then he will show you a large, furnished room upstairs. Make the preparations there." ¹³ So they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

So on Wednesday (The Day of Unleavened Bread) when the lambs had to be slaughtered because the Jew couldn't work on the passover.

Men didn't carry water jugs. It was a role for women. Men never carried the jug. It was humiliating, and it wasn't their job to do as a man.

There were only 2 times in the bible where men carry water jugs

1. This time in Luke 22
2. And Joshua 9:27

- a. ²⁷ On that day he made them woodcutters and water carriers—as they are today—for the community and for the LORD’s altar at the place he would choose.
- b. Joshua conquered a city (or peoples) and made them slaves and humiliated them by making them carry water jugs

But the Essenes had to carry their own water jugs, because their community was mostly men.

So when Jesus sends his disciples into town looking for a man carrying a water jug, they were looking for this man who was an Essene. He would have stood out like a sore thumb in a crowd.

What do the disciples say to the man to get him to open up his home?

Luke 22:11

¹¹ Tell the owner of the house, ‘**The Teacher** asks you, “Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover with my disciples?”’

“The Teacher Of Righteousness” - This was who the Essenes were looking for! The Messiah!

How does Jesus eat Passover on Passover and die on Passover? He eats it on the Essene Passover with his disciples. (Wednesday).

Next time, we’ll look at one more title for the Messiah, “The Leper Messiah”