

The Real Star

Last Sunday, Tucker Presley relayed an anecdote from Jeff Stott about a man by the name of Brent Tallent. *

Tallent was talented — very talented — at playing the piano. His ability quickly became known far and wide. A well-known singer asked him to accompany her for a performance, and he agreed, seeing it as an opportunity to showcase his skill at the keyboard. During the rehearsal, as the singer performed, Tallent's talent shone so brightly that his playing began to draw attention away from her song.

Following the rehearsal, the singer stopped, looked at Tallent, and said with a smile, "You know, Brent, I really make a wonderful accompanist for you!"

Suddenly Brent saw what he had done! He was to be the accompanist; she was to be the star of the show! He was to support her singing – never overshadowing and calling attention to his own skills. In short, he was to do everything he could to make her look and sound good!

John the Baptist was also very talented; he was an excellent preacher. People thronged to hear him. Yet John the Baptist wasn't trying to call attention to himself. He wanted others to know "the Real Star": Jesus. Read John 1.

John identified himself as "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord'" (John 1:23), fulfilling an Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 40:3). Later, "John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29).

That's why Jesus is the "Real Star." Jesus came to save us from sin that separates us from God and condemns us to eternal destruction (Isaiah 59:1-2; Matthew 7:13-14). In order to save us, Jesus "became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14) and then went to the cross as our perfect and sinless Representative to pay the price for our redemption with His own blood. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

Jesus is the Real Star. He is the One who deserves your attention, your affection, and your all. He died, was buried, and rose again from the grave to save us from sin and give us the gift of eternal life (Romans 4:25).

God will save and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31),

confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

Then, we serve our greatest role as Jesus' accompanist – seeking to magnify Him by living for Him and drawing the attention of others to Him so that they can also be saved.

“Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together” (Psalm 34:3).

-- David A. Sargent

* From “Honor One Another” by Jeff Stott in <https://truthappliedjs.com>.