

TAKING NAMES (John 1:19-29)

Intro: The old Gospel song – “*There’s a Man Going Around Taking Names*”

I. THERE’S A NAME-TAKING TRIAL GOING ON

- A. It was true for John the Baptist (verses 19-23)
- B. It’s true for us today as well

II. BUT WHO IS ON TRIAL?

- A. John the Baptist or his accusers? (verses 24-28)
- B. There were actually two trials going on (verses 27 & 29)

III. FOR GOD’S PEOPLE, THERE’S A NAME-CLEARING TRIAL!

- A. In Zechariah 3 we see a heavenly court scene (Zech. 3:1-5;8-9)
- B. Jesus is our defense attorney who clears our names (Zech. 3:9; John 1:29; Col. 1:20)
- C. At our baptism into Christ Jesus, we are given a new name (Rom. 8:1)

Concl: *The old TV show **Dragnet**: “The names have been changed to protect the innocent..”.*