

Series: John #

Title: Behold! The Lamb of God

Text: John 1:29-34

Would you take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the Gospel of John. The gospel of John chapter 1, beginning with Vs 29. There are notes in your bulletin. And I invite you to use them as we study the Word of God. Our topic: BEHOLD! THE LAMB OF GOD.

(Read John 1:29-34)

Prayer

Thank you Father, for your Word. And the clear presentation of your son, Jesus. I pray that you will plant your Word deep within our hearts that we might understand that this person who lived so long ago is God in human flesh. And we thank you, Father, that we are here today worshiping the one whom you desire that we worship, namely Jesus. And we pray this in His wonderful name.

Amen

+++++++

(1A) We are looking at THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF JESUS, which is the theme of chapters 1 through 12.

(1B) First of all, we looked at THE PERSON AND POWER OF JESUS in chapter 1 verses 1 through 18. Tremendous verses concerning the deity of Jesus Christ.

(2B) Now, ~~today~~, -- 2B on your outline -- we begin ^{Last Week} the second section which deals with the record of Jesus' manifestations. In the next four chapters, Jesus proves to the world who He really is. That

He really is God. And He does this in a number of wonderful exciting ways.

IC First of all - He proves who he is through the ministry of John the Baptist
Now, I am not going to look at each and every verse in this section. But, I would like to jump
D Last week we looked at the different ways in which Jesus displays His true nature. (2B) ~~And~~ I want to look at

begin with the acknowledgement of Jesus by John the Baptist. The acknowledgement of Jesus by

^{-vs 29-34}
John the Baptist. There are four things which stand out in this acknowledgement. Four very important principles that I trust you will apply to your life.

(1) Number one, John gives public testimony that Jesus paid for our sins. Which I trust you are doing. That is, giving public testimony that Jesus has paid for your sins.

[Also, please remember that this passage is John's account of the baptism of Jesus. And according to John chapter 2:13, the Jewish Passover was at hand. And so Jesus went up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover along with thousands of other people. And of course, everyone is thinking of all those lambs that are going to be scarified.

Also, remember what we said a few weeks ago about John the Baptist and put all of this together in your mind. ^{Remember} John is down at the Jordan river. He is preaching and baptizing people from all over the area. People who had come to the Jordan River to hear John preach: "Repent for the Kingdom of God was at hand." And then according to the book of Matthew, Jesus came down to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. When John saw him coming, he said – Vs. 29: "BEHOLD! THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD."

WOW! That was dynamite. It must have blown the people away. You ask why? It must have startled them for two reasons.

(1) Number one, they would have been amazed that John did not say: "Here is one who is going to offer a lamb to be scarified. No way! He said, "Here is one who is the lamb of God.

(2) The second thing that would have amazed them was what He said the lamb would do. Dear friends, you must understand. When the Priest offered the lamb in sacrifice and blood was shed, it was a covering – an atonement – a covering for sin.

But, John when he looked at Jesus did not say "covering". He said: "He will take away the sin of the world." Not just a covering, but complete removal.

The point: no matter how great your sin, or, when you sinned, or when you will sin; all sin has been paid for by the lamb of God. Isn't that great? ^{Did you get that} Aren't you glad you came to church today?

Dear friends, when you believe into the name of Jesus you believe that all your sins, regardless of when you committed them, regardless of what you might commit in the future, Jesus has taken them away, totally, completely. And I say: PRAISE GOD!

Let me tell you. When you get a hold of this principle it will free you to be the person God wants you to be.

~~(2nd)~~ The second thing that I would like you to notice in this acknowledgement of John is in Vs. 32. And this is the presence of the Holy Spirit on Jesus. This principle is the number one way that the whole world knew that Jesus was the Messiah.

I think it is interesting that John ^{The Baptist} said in Vs. 31 and 33 that he did not recognize Jesus. I wonder why? John was a second cousin to Jesus. Families in those days were very close. And yet, John says: "I did not recognize him." He didn't really know ^{who} Jesus ^{really was} until something very important happened. O.K., what happened?

Look at vs. 32: "And John bore witness saying, I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven; and He remained upon him."

Now, I would like you to turn, please, to the book of Isaiah. The book of Isaiah chapter 11. The way in which God announced to the world and to John the Baptist concerning the identity of Jesus was by the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus. And this manifestation was like a dove coming to rest on Jesus.

Isaiah chapter 11 verse 1 and 2 says: "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse. And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him."

The Bible predicts that the Holy Spirit would rest upon the Messiah. And thus you would know that this was the one – This was the Son of God.

Turn, please, to Isaiah chapter 42. Chapter 42 verse 1: “Behold, my servant, whom I uphold; my chosen one in whom my soul delights, I have put my SPIRIT upon him.” Again, you would know the Messiah because the Holy Spirit would be upon Him.

Look at Isaiah chapter 61 verse 1. Jesus quotes this passage about himself in his home town synagogue. And here is what He said. “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me.” By the way, the word “Christ” means “anointed one.” The Lord has anointed *me* ~~my~~ to bring good news to the affected. Jesus came to preach the gospel about himself. And God anointed him. Just like he anointed the prophets, Priest, and Kings. But, the oil this time was the oil of the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit confirmed to John the Baptist and is proof to the world that Jesus was the Messiah. Fantastic! *FULFILLMENT of prophecy*

Now, come back to John chapter 1...

(31) The third thing we learn from John’s acknowledgement of Jesus is the purpose of His ministry. WHAT DID JESUS COME TO DO?

Vs 33 says: “And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, He upon whom you see the spirit descending and remaining upon him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.” A couple of things here that I hope will bless your heart concerning the purpose of the Ministry of Jesus. *and that is to baptize with the H.S.*

IF
(32) Number one, the meaning of baptism. Now, most of you have been baptized. Some of you have not. So, the question is: WHY ARE PEOPLE BAPTIZED?

IG
(33) Some people are baptized because they believe that they will not go to heaven unless they are baptized. They believe that. Dear friends, that water is just good old tap water. It has no saving value what so ever. But, there are some people who sure believe that. They believe you

must be baptized in order to be saved. Let me make it clear. Baptism does not save you. Faith in Jesus Christ saves you. (Got it? God it!. Good, Great!)

(2F) Secondly, there are those who believe that you must be baptized in order to be a member of the church. ^{Local} Baptism becomes an entrance requirement into local church membership. Now, we believe that. We don't believe that baptism saves you. But, we do believe in a membership that has been saved by faith. And that saving faith is testified to through baptism. But, listen, dear friends, that is not what baptism is all about.

(3F) So, let's come to the correct view of baptism – which of course is held by all members of this church. Right? There are two things you should know concerning the correct view of baptism.

(1G) Number one – the Bible says in I Peter 3:20 that baptism is the answer of a good conscience towards God. Now, the answer about what? In that passage in I Peter, it says that Baptism is like the flood waters. Do you remember the story of the flood in the book of Genesis. Will, what happened in the flood waters? There was this Ark with Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives. 8 people were saved by being in the Ark. What happened to all those folks who were in the flood waters? They all died. The flood waters killed everybody and everything that was not in the Ark. Only those in the Ark were saved.

Now, some people say that baptism saves you. Well, if it does you have just messed up the illustration in the Bible. Because the baptismal waters represent the flood waters not the Ark. What saves you is being in Christ. Jesus is the Ark. Baptism represents what the flood waters represented – death and burial.

So, if you are looking at Baptism, the baptismal pool is like a coffin. You go down into it and it represents death and burial. When you come up out of the water that represent resurrection to a new life. That is what baptism represents as to a good conscience towards God.

(2G) Secondly, baptism represented the issue of identification and loyalty to the one in whose name you were baptized.

Listen, dear friends, do you know why those early Jewish Christians were suffering? Why they couldn't buy or sell? Why Paul ran around to various churches in the Mediterranean world raising money for the saints in Jerusalem? Do you know why they had to sell and combined all their possessions in order to live? Because when you were baptized and everybody saw your baptism,. You gave public testimony to the one in whose name you were baptized. That is why when you read in the book of Acts: 'INTO HIS NAME THEY WERE BAPTIZED.'" At that point they would be cut off from the theocracy of Israel. It was now economics. You couldn't buy or sell. You had a hard time making a living. And those early Jewish Christians were suffering because of their allegiance to Christ, which baptism proved.

Do you understand? You can run around being a silent believer. But, when you are baptized, everyone know it. Baptism identifies you with Jesus Christ.

(2E) NOW, THE SECOND THING THAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT THE
FIRST - The meaning of Baptism
MINISTRY OF JESUS CONCERNS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Who
baptizes people with the Holy Spirit?

ANSWER: Jesus does. You don't baptize yourself. The Holy Spirit
doesn't even baptize you. JESUS BAPTIZES YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Now, the question is why? What does that have to do with the
purpose of His ministry?

I want you to get a hold of this principle. This is not fully
comprehended by many Christians. Thus, many miss a great blessing.

The purpose of Jesus coming into the world, according to the Bible,
is to foresee and to have a seed...a great family that would fulfill the
promises of God as predicted in the O. T. God said to Abraham: "In thee
shall all the nations of the world be blessed." Your seed shall be like the
sand of the sea and the stars in the sky.

Now, how would that prediction come to pass? The Bible says
when the Messiah would see his seed, God would rejoice. Isa. 53 said
that the Messiah would suffer and die for that seed. In order to make it
possible for that great family to happen.

And dear friends, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the way Jesus
does it. In I Cor. 12:13 Paul says, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized



into one body, whether Jew or Greek, whether slave or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

So, how is one baptized with the Holy Spirit? Acts 11:16-17 tells us. When you believe and when you receive Jesus as your personal savior,

at that moment you are baptized *By Jesus* with the Holy Spirit. And *you are* placed *into* the family of God.

You see, I know that Jesus lives, because the Bible says so. And I believe the Bible. *We talked about that last wk* ~~But~~, I know His presence is real in my life.

You ask, "How do you know that?" Because His presence is made real by the Holy Spirit. I can't put that into a test tube and show it to you. But, I know that it is true, because God's Spirit bears witness with my Spirit that I am a son of God. And the same thing is true in your life. It is just fantastic *AND don't miss that blessing*

(4D) THEN FINALLY, IN VS 94, JOHN GIVES WITNESS TO THE PERSON JESUS

REALLY IS. He says, "I have seen and have borne witness that this (Jesus) is the Son of God." And when John used that phrase "son of God" the Jews knew what he meant. For over in chapter 5 it says that they believed he was blaspheming. Because he was making Jesus equal with God. So, to say that you are the "son of God", the heir of everything that God has, is to say that you are equal with God. Once again, the tremendous teaching and testimony that Jesus is God.

9

And like John the Baptist, I trust you can give personal witness to the fact that Jesus is all that He claims to be. ^{your Life} That he is your savior and your Lord. And you know that is true because you have been baptized by the Holy Spirit.

Dear friends, I trust you know Jesus this morning. And I hope , like John the Baptist, you are giving witness to the fact that you know the Lord.

But, if you have never received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then do so today. For today is the acceptable time to make that decision.

SHALL WE CLOSE IN PRAYER