

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me John 1

We are continuing our study through the gospel of John –

Just a reminder that -

The Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written – so the Holy Spirit inspired John to fill in some of the gaps that were left by the other gospels.

That is why John doesn't give us a play by play of everything that Jesus did or said – instead John focuses on reminding the reader who Jesus is.

He is the Word

He is God

He is Eternal

He is our Creator – the Life Giver

He is Light

And He tabernacled with us because He desires a relationship with us.

And once we embrace this – God wants us to continue in fellowship with Him – continue to trust Him and grow in Him as He continues to transform us and point other to Him.

That is what our text is going to point out –

Let's pray...

In our study last week, the Apostle John began to provide us not only with the ministry that God had called John the Baptist to – but he also provided insight into who John the Baptist was as a person.

And we saw this last week as people began to follow him - the religious rulers, send out a delegation to question what he was doing, to question why was he doing it and by who's authority was he doing it.

And it was at this point that John could have easily brought attention to himself. He could have made it all about him. He could have made this moment his 10 minutes of fame.

But as we saw in his response, that is not what he did –

He demonstrated tremendous humility – and this is something that we see John do throughout his ministry – over and over again.

Never drawing attention to himself.

“It is not about me – I’m just a voice – delivering a message - pointing to the One coming after me”

– referring to Jesus Christ.

I want you to write Micah 6:8 next to John the Baptist –

[Mic 6:8 NKJV] 8 He has shown you, O man, what [is] good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

John the Baptist did what the Lord required of him.

His humility was not a forced humility or a false humility – he didn’t do it to be seen by others – he didn’t brag to others about how humble he was. (that’s false humility)

he didn’t simply try to be humble – because to try to be humble simply means that we are not humble.

He knew God, he trusted God – and as a result, humility oozed out of his heart in everything he did.

Not only did John point to Jesus Christ – he had a message

A message that was unpopular back then as it is today.

He came with a message of repentance -

To those that were flocking to John – they embraced the message of repentance because they wanted a right relationship with God.

But to the religious – they found the message of repentance a threat to their religious business – the message of repentance was a threat to their standing among the people.

So they came upon John the Baptist in the same way that we will see them come against Jesus Christ and His message of repentance.

Church, repentance is foundational, it is fundamental; it is one of the essentials in having a relationship with God.

If we are going to love God with all our heart, soul and mind – that love will flow through repentance.

Let's look at our text

[Jhn 1:29-42 NKJV] 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

I had you make a note that it was the next day –

The Apostle John wants to point out that what happens here in verse 29, transpired on the day after the delegation from the religious rulers had questioned John.

The reason John didn't point out Jesus the day before to the religious leaders was because Jesus wasn't with John when the delegation was there.

Jesus at this point, He is coming back from the 40 days in the Wilderness where He was tempted.

He had already been baptized by John the Baptist previously.

Remember, I said that John doesn't record every event –

So John sees Jesus approaching and John point Him out.

Now, I asked you to make a note how John the Baptist pointed Him out.

He didn't say, "Look everyone, it's my younger cuz"

He didn't even say, "Look, it's Jesus"

He said, "Behold the Lamb of God"

This phrase is unique to John

Nowhere else in scripture do we find "Lamb of God"

However, if we look at the Old Testament –

We find individuals searching for it.

Turn with me to Genesis 22

[Gen 22:6-8 NKJV] 6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid [it] on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. 7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where [is] the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

Where is the Lamb of God?

That was the cry of the Old Testament

You see, the audience that was there with John, they were very familiar with the sacrificial system.

They were very familiar with the Passover - because they commemorated it every year.

They remember God delivering them out of bondage / out of slavery in the same manner that we will partake of communion today – as we remember, our own deliverance from the bondage of sin.

And in Exodus, during the first Passover, we are told that they would select an unblemished lamb and that they would bond with it for several days before they were to slaughter it and mark the doorway of the house with the blood of the lamb and their house would be passed over.

And they were commanded to celebrate the Passover with a special symbolic meal reminding them of that night.

It was all a prophetic picture that would one day be fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

It is no coincidence that Jesus had to die during Passover

Paul, in his 1st letter to the church in Corinth writes, For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Jesus is God's perfect sacrifice.

Jesus died to spill His blood, not on the doorposts of our house, but on the doorposts of our own hearts.

When we believe in Jesus, God sees the blood of His Son Jesus on our lives, and we too are spared the judgment of God.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world –

One of the things we find in scriptures is that the message of the Lamb of God – it grows wider and becomes more encompassing as we go through the bible.

In Genesis 4, we see Abel – he was a shepherd. He offers up a lamb – for himself.

The lamb of the Passover, it was offered up on behalf of the family / the household.

In the book of Leviticus, we find offerings that are offered up on behalf of a nation.

Yet, here John identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, who is offered up on behalf of the entire world.

I want you to notice also that -

John didn't say, "Behold, the Messiah – the One who is here to beat up the bad Romans"

The expectations of many of the Jews during this time was that the Messiah would be an earthly king that would deliver them from the tyranny of Rome"

Jesus didn't save us from the Romans

He came to save us from our sins by His death on the cross and His resurrection.

30 "This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' 31 "I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." 32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 "And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

In verse 31 and 33, we have John declare – I did not know Him – referring to Jesus Christ.

You might ask yourself, wait a minute – didn't you say that Jesus and John were related?

I'm pretty sure Elizabeth told John about Jesus' miraculous birth and her encounter with Mary.

So then, how did John not know Him?

This is in reference to Jesus being the Messiah.

You see, up to this point – apart from His birth - the scriptures do not provide us with any miracles that Jesus did.

I think sometimes, we may have the misconception that when Mary sent a young Jesus off to do chores that Jesus snapped His fingers and it was done.

Or if He didn't want to eat His broccoli that He just made it disappear.

Yes, He was still 100 God and 100% man – but Paul tells us in Phil 2 that He set aside His deity – He made Himself of no reputation.

It wasn't until the Holy Spirit descended upon Him that He was miraculously empowered for ministry.

Note this church, Jesus never did a miracle simply because He was God.

Every miracle Jesus did was based upon His dependency on the Spirit in obedience to the Father.

And the reason He did this church was to identify with us.

He was just like us – except without sin.

And He relied on the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the best part is - that power is made available to you and me.

Jesus didn't need to be baptized because He was sinless – but He underwent baptism to identify with those He came to save.

Before Jesus came to the Jordan to be baptized by John, John kept pointing to the One who WOULD come – simply referring to Him as “the Messiah.”

After Jesus was baptized, & His identity was made clear by these signs from heaven, John pointed people, not just to a generic “Messiah” but the person – Jesus of Nazareth.

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

So, here we come upon day three –

The first day was when the delegation came to question John the Baptist, the second day is when John pointed out Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God to his audience and then we come to day three.

Here, John the Baptist is standing with two of His disciples.

One, we know is Andrew – the identity of the other one is not revealed to us but everyone seems to agree that it is the Apostle John.

So, John is standing there with Andrew and John and then Jesus walks by again – and once again John points his own disciples to Jesus.

“Hey guys, behold the Lamb of God!!! What are you guys doing hanging out with me – He is the One you should be hanging out to”

That is what John the Baptist is doing here – he is nudging people to Christ

And I believe that is what the great commission is all about – it is not about pointing people to denominations or this church versus that church – it’s all about guiding individuals to Jesus Christ.

38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

I want you to focus on the dialogue here between Jesus and John and Andrew.

First Jesus asks the question – by the way, these are the first words that Jesus speaks in John's gospels.

What do you seek? What do you want?

And their response – Rabbi, where is your home – because we're your new roommates. Wherever You are going, wherever You are staying – that is where we are going to stay.

They have made a commitment to follow Jesus

So John the Baptist fulfilled what he was chosen to do – in pointing people to Jesus Christ and having them follow Him permanently.

So Jesus gives them the invitation – come and see

And the two disciples accepted the invitation and they came and saw.

And the outcome was that they stayed with Him.

Everyone will have an opportunity to respond to the same invitation that was given to Andrew and John –

Come and See – and the reason is...

[2Pe 3:9 NKJV] 9 The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Some people will choose not to come and see.

And others will come and see.

Not everyone will stay –

Notice that Jesus doesn't say, "Either believe in Me now or go away"

Instead, He lets them follow after Him, to find out more.

Church, we must be patient if people are not willing to commit instantly to the Lord.

Jesus invites seekers – we must allow the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts.

Keep praying for our loved ones that have not made a commitment to follow Christ.

40 One of the two who heard John [speak], and followed Him, was Andrew,
Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him,
"We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he
brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "**You are Simon**
the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

Andrew was so impressed with Jesus he immediately went to find his brother Simon,
saying that they'd found the Messiah.

And when Andrew brings his brother before Jesus – Jesus does something significant
– He changes his name.

Naming something was a way to show authority over it.

Fathers named their children.

By assigning Simon a new name, Jesus was asserting his authority over him & saying that by associating with Jesus, a new phase had opened in Simon's life.

You see Simon is the shortened version of the name Simeon.

And the name Simeon, means to "hear"

You might remember that Simeon was Leah's 2nd son by Jacob because God "heard" her prayers.

Now, when you study the life of Simeon – we find that he was someone who didn't bother to think it through – he was someone who made rash decisions, he was cruel, he lacked self-control and was unstable.

So – on his death bed, Jacob even says – because you are so unstable, your tribe is going to be insignificant (smallest in numbers) it is not even going to have an identity because it is going to be swallowed up by the other tribes.

So by changing Simon's name to Cephas (or Peter in the Greek) - Rocky

Jesus is changing his identity from someone who is unstable, shaky and untrustworthy – and that is going to be Peter before the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to someone who overtime becomes a steadfast follower of Jesus Christ.

Now, I want to finish with Andrew –

Andrew in the scriptures is always referred to as Simon Peter's brother.

Yet, it was Andrew that pointed Peter to Jesus Christ –

He found the Messiah first – he could have kept it to himself right.

He could have came out from his brother's shadows.

But he didn't and later on in the book of Acts we find that Jesus uses Peter to bring three thousand to Himself.

It is Andrew in John 6 – who brings the boy and his lunch to Jesus and Jesus feeds the 5000

And in John 12, it is Andrew who brings the certain contingent of Greeks to see Jesus because they wanted to know more about Him –

And that is when Jesus responds -

[Jhn 12:23 NKJV] 23 "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

Andrew just like John the Baptist understood – it was never about them.

It is always about Jesus.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'