

9 Behold The Lamb of God - John 1:29-34

06/21/15

REVIEW / INTRODUCTION

Last week we had a special service. We shared several takeaways from participants of the theology program. And the teens also shared their testimonies of how God moved in their hearts at Fusion Bible Camp. God was at work in a powerful way. The takeaway for me was that repentance and confession lead to revival. Have courage from the Lord to confess our weaknesses to one another. Pray for each other and God will move in a might way.

Two weeks ago we were in the book of John. We covered chapter 1 verses 19-28. A delegation sent from the Sanhedrin Council of Jerusalem asked John whether he was the Messiah. John denied emphatically that he was the Messiah. He also denied being the reincarnation of a prophet. But he did claim to be the Voice Crying in The Wilderness to make straight the way of The Lord.

Today we will cover verse 29-34. Let's read the text.

READING THE TEXT

John 1:29-34

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And

John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

PREACHING THE TEXT

John 1:29-34

²⁹ The next day

THE NEXT (SECOND) DAY

The Evangelist builds a countdown of days into chapter one. This count down moves from the day of the first public introduction of Jesus Christ until the first revealing of His glory at Cana. This is a countdown to glory. When the Messiah reveals His glory that is confirmation that the kingdom of God has come. So the days that are specifically mentioned are a build up to the unveiling of the glory of The Son of God.

vs 29 continued ...he (John The Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

When Jesus comes toward John “the next day,” it is not their first meeting. Jesus has already been baptized and passed through the struggle of the wilderness. The Apostle John who is also known as “The evangelist” wrote this book assuming we know Jesus had already been in the desert of temptation and had already been baptized by John.

*The Evangelist goes on to deal with the wonder of true identity Jesus being revealed to the Baptist. “**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**” John did not have a lot of information about Jesus to go by. He did not have a class in which he was told that Jesus was the Messiah. It is a work of The Spirit that John is able to make this startling announcement at this early phase of Jesus’ ministry. This is a good example of how the Lord opens truths to His servants that are beyond their natural understanding.*

BEHOLD THE LAMB!

These words; **Behold The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**; are words that are on the lips and on the minds and in the hearts of those who have been born of God.

My life has been radically changed. I used to have no hope and had fits of rage every day. I used to get in fights and steal things. I have been completely changed.” “Really, what happened?” **“Behold The Lamb of God who took away my sin and gave me new desires!”**

About 3 years ago I was in the back of an ambulance and for some reason I had total peace. I was asking the paramedics about their life and asking how I could pray for them and encourage them. One of them said; “you seem to be pretty calm.” The reason for my calm is; **Behold The Lamb of God who took away my sin and removed my fear of death!**

The purpose of our lives is in whatever we do do it all to the glory of God. That means we are shining a spot light on the glory of God. In other

words; **Behold The Lamb of God!** If you think I am good at anything you should see the one who created me! **Behold The Lamb of God**

John is carried along by the Spirit of God as he points to Jesus and say; **THIS IS HIM! THERE HE IS!** This is the Lamb of God. I'm not sure John fully understood what it meant that Jesus was the Lamb of God. I do not think he fully comprehended the destination of the Messiah to be the Lamb of God on the cross. His mind was illuminated by the Spirit of God as he spoke those words.

THE "LAMBS" OF SCRIPTURE

Scripture gives us many pictures of lambs that are used by God to deal with sin and consecrate covenants with His people.

In **Genesis 22: 7-8** we see in Abraham's story that God Himself will provide the lamb for the sacrifice.

In **Exodus 29:38-39** Lambs were sacrificed daily for the atonement sins.

The Passover Lamb: Scripture makes sure that we know Jesus was crucified on passover. Jesus, The Lamb of God was handed over to be crucified on the 6th hour, which is the very time in which the passover lambs of Israel were slaughtered. This is John's way of telling us that His blood causes God's wrath to *pass over* those who trust in Him.

REFORMER OR DELIVERER

But people were not looking for a Lamb to take away their sin. The people called for a reformer like Elijah to clean up the temple. Others called for a deliverer like Moses who would deliver them from the tyranny of an

oppressive government. But what the people really needed most was to be cleansed of their sin and found to be not guilty in front of a holy God.

The Lamb of God came not to clean up and reorganize the temple (although he did take time to throw out the money changers). The Lamb did not come to deliver Israel from an oppressive government. The Lamb came to deliver them from the oppression of sin, addiction and darkness.

OUR LESSON, OUR LAMB

We must remember that Jesus Christ is still the Lamb of God who takes away our sin. It is tempting even today to look for Jesus to come and wipe out all those rotten people who are trying to take away our rights as citizens.

Not too long ago I heard about a guy whose yard flooded because the road crew messed up a drainage pipe. The EPA swooped in and declared his land a protected area and he had to shut down the building of his house. My thought was that when Jesus comes he is not going to make up a bunch of fake stupid rules that don't actually help anyone or anything. His government is going to be perfect.

But right now Jesus is not my lobbyist or a politician. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. So as believers we can have common sense and we can elect people that do not make stupid rules. And we can voice our concern and be involved in and shape our culture. But we have to remember that the most important thing to voice in our life and in our town and state and country is that Jesus has come to war against sin.

Jesus is given the title; Lamb of God. And the evangelist shares several other titles that are given to Jesus in just this first chapter.

THE TITLES OF JESUS CHRIST

In verse 29 Jesus is; ***The Lamb of God.***

In verse 34 Jesus is ***The Elect One.***

In verses 38 & 49 He is called **Rabbi.**

In verse 41 He is called ***Messiah.***

In verse 45 He is called ***The One Moses Wrote About.***

In verse 49 He is; ***The Son of God*** and ***The King of Israel.***

And in verse 51 He is ***The Son of Man.***

Only Jesus Christ The Son of God and Messiah is worthy of all these titles. John continued....

³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'

The one who is a bit younger than John and who came on the scene in ministry after John is not John's disciple. Jesus did not come up as a result of John The Baptists ministry of discipling. No! Jesus The Son of God outranks John because The Son of God was alive even before the universe existed. He was before me and He was before everything.

³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."

I MYSELF DID NOT KNOW HIM

John said; ***“I myself did not know Him,”*** Why is it important for people to know that John did not know Jesus before he introduced him as the Lamb of God and Messiah?

Some may have known that The Baptist and Jesus were cousins. If they were cynical and assumed the worst they would imagine that John and Jesus sat down one day and hatched a plan. Cynical minds could imagine Jesus telling John; *“hey introduce me as the Messiah and I will give you an important position and title in my government.”*

John’s point is that this is not some backroom deal that was cut between he and Jesus. He is not backing Jesus out of favoritism because Jesus is a relative. He has been out in the desert and did not spend time with Jesus. And even if he did he would not have known Jesus was the Messiah unless God revealed that to him.

John came baptizing and pleading with people to repent and get their hearts ready to receive Israel’s Savior and Messiah. And in the course of baptizing people and calling them to repentance the Lord showed up and revealed the Messiah to John.

³² ***And John bore witness:***

We who are saved also have a testimony. “this is how I came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior...” This is how I met The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of my heart and of the world.”

Here is John's testimony of how he came to identify Jesus Christ as The Messiah. John says;

32 continued "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

John saw The Spirit descend from heaven and land on Jesus. That Spirit remained on Him. This is significant as The Spirit descended on others throughout history such as Abraham or David but then it left in an ebb and flow. But the permanent anointing of the Spirit and the residence of The Spirit in and on a person was new.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE

The presence of the Spirit fulfilled more than one Messianic prophecy. But here is one.

Isaiah 61¹ The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor;

he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

This text tells us that Spirit of the Lord will land upon the Messiah. The word "because" gives us the purpose for The Spirit landing on the Messiah.

ANOINTING

The Spirit comes to anoint. The anointing is the affirmation of God's favor upon a person. And it is the releasing of spiritual gifts in a person's life that will occur because of the working of the Spirit's power and presence. In the Messiah the Spirit would add power to the commands and ministry activities of the Messiah so that good news sinks into the hearts of those who are poor in spirit.

The Spirit would supercharge and carry out the commands of Jesus to force evil spirits out of people when the Messiah commanded them to leave. When Jesus told the woman at the well to take heart that she was forgiven, the Spirit convinced her, and she believed to salvation. Her old life was gone and the new life had come. This is the nature of the Spirit landing upon Jesus and remaining on Him. He was anointed for ministry with power.

Today when a believer is born again the Spirit comes to reside in him or her. The result is that our hearts are convinced and have faith that is given as a miracle of God. And we have spiritual gifts in which we are able to do things to bless the body of Christ that includes but goes beyond our natural talent. Jesus who came to baptize with the Holy Spirit lives in my heart.

I mentioned that John wants people to know that he and Jesus had not been meeting in secret and planning a big reveal day. John tells us how he recognized Jesus as the Messiah. Verse 33 tells us.

³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’

John is a prophet who heard from God. God spoke to John and told him; “when you see the Spirit descend on a person and remain there, that is the Messiah.” “That is the one who will fulfill Isaiah 61.” “This is the one who will baptize with the Spirit and walk in the great power of God.” “This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” Verse 34 is like John’s signature as a prophet.

John 1:34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

SUMMARY

So John announces the Lamb of God while Jesus is walking toward Him. And this announcement begins a countdown of days to the time when Jesus will reveal His glory. Jesus is also attributed many different names that could only be gathered up by The Son of God, The Messiah.

John wants to make sure that everyone knows that God is the one who revealed the identity of Jesus to Him.

And we looked at the title “Lamb of God” who takes away the sins of the world. We know that Jesus came to address man’s biggest problem which is not political, man’s biggest problem is sin that separates us from God.

Lastly, we studied the Old Testament imagery and purpose of the Lamb of God during passover. Jesus was handed over to be the sacrificed Lamb for the sins of the world at the 6th hour when the lambs of passover were slaughtered to cover the sins of Israel.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Do you introduce Jesus as The Lamb of God or do you introduce Him as one who will back your political cause or personal conviction?
2. Have you received the pardon of The Lamb of God? Is the Spirit of God giving you assurance that death will pass over you?
3. John had a testimony. His testimony was about how he met the Lamb of God. Do you have a testimony? Have you met the Lamb of God? And do you testify to others about The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world?
4. Will you pray and ask God to revive your love for the Lamb of God who took your sin on the cross. Remember from last week;

Repentance plus confession = **Revival**.