

THE LAMB OF GOD

John the Baptist was making waves in the wilderness back in his day. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:1-2). He was baptizing in the Jordan river. It was "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 3:3). At one point Jesus came to John to be baptized. John attempted to prevent him from being baptized, but Jesus said, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). Jesus "went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:16-17). At some point, the Pharisees sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to John. "Who are you? The Christ? Elijah? The Prophet?" He confessed that he was neither of these three (although he came in the spirit of Elijah as Jesus taught, but John didn't realize it). John began to exalt Jesus, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie" (John 1:19-28).

Now we come to the next day . . .

HOW DO YOU VIEW HIM? John 1:29-34

- Surely John had heard about his family member, Jesus. Both boys had pretty dramatic stories to tell. It's very clear that John understood Jesus was his superior (Matthew 3:14), but it was not confirmed that Jesus was the Messiah.
- Who was Jesus? He was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Not only that, but He also out ranked John. He came before John. He is the "I AM."
 - In John 9, Jesus heals a man who was born blind. The man first refers to Jesus by His name. Then he confesses as a prophet. Finally, Jesus reveals Himself as the Son of Man. What was the response of the newly healed man? "He said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him" (vs.38).
- Someone told me recently, "People need to accept the message, not because of its beauty, but because it's true." Now, I believe that what Christ showed the world was both beautiful and true. Like worship - it's to be done in spirit and truth, but I understand His point.
 - We need to appreciate Jesus, not only for what He has done, but for who He is. He is the Lamb of God. He is the Son of God. Such a realization brings us to our knees in worship. When one truly appreciates who He is . . . they worship Him.
 - Could it be that the reason we don't worship Him throughout the week or desire to assemble with God's people, is because we no longer appreciate who He is like we once did?
 - For John, once you've seen Jesus confirmed as Christ, there's no more looking. No more turning back. There's salvation in no one else.
 - Who or what has your attention these days?

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO HIM? John 1:35-42

- Can you imagine what that would be like? "There's the lamb of God!" He turns around and invites you to spend a day with Him!
- What would you say?
 - What if you didn't have anything to talk about . . . because you didn't know Him?

- Would it be an intellectual discussion?
- Would we spend our time complaining?
- Would you ask Him, "why is this happening"?
- Would you praise Him? Thank Him? I wonder . . .

WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT HIM? John 1:43-51

- You know a common denominator between those mentioned in chapter 1?
 - John (vs. 29-30, 35-37)
 - Andrew (vs. 40-42, 43-46).
 - They were all seeking. They all pointed others to Christ?
- When you realize who Jesus is and what He does, how can you not talk about it?
 - I truly believe that those of us who do not try to talk to others about Jesus are missing out on Jesus and, to be honest, missing the big picture. They are robbing themselves of what it means to be a Christian. If we've not picked up on this pattern in the New Testament, then we're not paying attention.
- Spreading the gospel . . .
 - Is proof of our love and appreciation of Jesus.
 - Keeps us humble.
 - Keeps us loving those in the darkness.
 - Keeps us in prayer.
 - Keeps us in the word.