



What Are You Looking For? John 1:29-42

That's a loaded question...asked by Jesus.
Today we discover how the first disciples of Jesus responded
and why their response should be our response.

THE LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29-31 (CSB) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Here is **the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!** ³⁰ This is the one I told you about: 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.' ³¹ I didn't know him, but I came baptizing with water so he might be revealed to Israel."

🌟 **Kent Hughes:** "In one sentence we have the essence of the Christian message. It is difficult for Western ears to appreciate the power of John's announcement, but these words brought an avalanche of meaning to the Jews' minds."¹

Jewish folks were familiar with the **lamb** language. A lamb was a young male sheep used for daily sacrifices from the time of Moses until then (Ex. 29:38-39 in morning & evening), as well as other special sacrifices.

- Abraham tells Isaac, "God himself will provide the **lamb** for the burnt offering." (Gen. 22:8 CSB) God provides a ram (mature male sheep) to Abraham as a substitute sacrifice for Isaac.
- During the first Passover, an unblemished, 1-year old, male sheep (lamb) or goat was sacrificed in Egypt by each Jewish family (Ex. 12:1-36; Mark 14:12). After being slaughtered and their blood applied to the doorposts, the people ate the animal in expectation & celebration of God's promise to keep them from God's wrath & release them from bondage.
- Isaiah's 700 year old prophecy speaking of someone who would be led "like a lamb to the slaughter" (Is. 53:7) to pay for the sins of the Jewish people (Is. 53:4-6). [Note: **Jesus, the unblemished lamb of God, died during Passover**]

And now, HE is HERE! And John points Him out to his disciples:

"Here is **the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**"

John doesn't tell us of Jesus' baptism, but He was one of thousands who had already come to be baptized by John.

BAPTISM OF JESUS

Matthew 3:13-17 (CSB) ¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?" ¹⁵ Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because **this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then John allowed him to be baptized. ¹⁶ When **Jesus** was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the **Spirit** of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. ¹⁷ And a **voice from heaven** said: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."

2 Important Points

1. vv. 13-15: Jesus wasn't baptized to be washed from sin nor prepare for the Messiah - He *WAS* the Messiah. Instead, this act of baptism was **to fulfill all righteousness**, a foreshadowing of what baptism would later come to represent - the DEATH, BURIAL, & RESURRECTION of Jesus!
2. vv. 16-17: Here we see the Trinity: the Father speaks, the Son is baptized, the Spirit reveals who Jesus really is!

YOUR NOTES

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *John: That You May Believe, Preaching the Word* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1999), 45.

John the Baptist shares the story

John 1:32-34 (CSB) ³² And John testified, "I saw **the Spirit** descending from heaven like a dove, and **he rested on him**. ³³ I didn't know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on—he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have seen and testified that **this is the Son of God.**"

John notes that Jesus didn't come to baptize people with water on the outside - like John had. Instead, Jesus **is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit** on the inside! John highlights the fact that this is no mere man, but Jesus is **the Son of God**.

The Son of God

What 'Son of God' means must be considered in light of all that has already been shared in John 1. 'The Son of God' was "in the beginning," "with God," "was God," and "created all things." (John 1:1-3). **Jesus is timeless, sinless, & the limitless God in skin** (Jn. 1:14).

The Messiah is Revealed in Israel!

John 1:35-38 (CSB) ³⁵ The next day, John was standing with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, **the Lamb of God!**" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this and **followed Jesus**. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and noticed them following him, he asked them, "**What are you looking for?**" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

Being John's disciples, these men had been baptized and were prepared to see the Messiah. And now it's time to do what John had trained them to do, follow Jesus. Jesus asked, "**What are you looking for?**" They wanted to know this man, the Lamb who would take away their sin.

Will their response will be our response?

BIG TRUTH: To KNOW HIM & make HIM KNOWN

The Impact of One Afternoon

John 1:39-42a (CSB) ³⁹ "Come and you'll see," he replied. So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John and **followed him**. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (which is translated "the Christ"), ⁴² and **he brought Simon to Jesus**.

Jesus invited them and they remained with him the rest of the day. What must THAT DAY have been like! Can you imagine having a whole day to hang out with Jesus, to ask him questions, to watch how "the Lamb of God" treated the other people around him?

SOMETHING about Jesus sure impacted them, so much so that when they got home, they had to tell some folks about their experience with Jesus.

Andrew wanted to tell his brother about Jesus! "We have found the Messiah!" Think about that statement for a minute. The Jews had been awaiting the Messiah's coming ever since the first sacrifices were instituted.

Don't expect someone else to take the message to the ones God EXPECTS you to tell.

Will their response will be our response?

To KNOW HIM & make HIM KNOWN

YOUR NOTES

A New Nickname

John 1:42b (CSB) When Jesus saw him, he said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated "Peter").

Peter means "rock".

- Jesus called Simon "ROCKY" when He could have called him WIMP. Remember Simon Peter denying Jesus 3 times?
- Jesus could have called him CHAMELEON. Remember when Peter would later fall back into hanging out with Jews, but not with Gentiles (Galatians 2)?
- And then there was that time when Jesus DID call Him SATAN, because Simon was trying to derail God's plan to sacrifice Himself (Mt. 16:21-23).

But now Jesus nicknames him "Rocky". **Jesus knew who Simon was, before Simon knew who he was.** He had a plan ready for Simon Peter BEFORE Simon Peter was ready for the plan.

- Despite what YOU or another has done, isn't it possible that Jesus can still use you in His plan?

Rocky is Redeemed!

1 Peter 1:18-19 (CSB) ¹⁸ For you know that **you were redeemed** from your empty way of life inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but **with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.**

Finally, Simon Peter understands and appreciates the payment that Jesus made...for him!

And John the apostle later has a vision where he sees the ultimate outcome of Jesus' sacrifice.

The LAMB Takes Away the Sin of the WORLD!

Revelation 5:8-9 (CSB) ⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before **the Lamb**. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because **you were slaughtered** [ESV "slain"], **and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

What's THE NEXT STEP?

- Turn from your sin and turn to Jesus! Talk with a real Christian about to help answer your questions!
- Are you still seeking to KNOW Him? How? When is the last time you pulled an Andrew and shared your faith? Don't expect someone else to take the message to the ones God EXPECTS you to tell.

How would YOU answer if Jesus asked you, "**What are you looking for?**" Will their response will be our response?

To KNOW HIM & make HIM KNOWN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What challenged or encouraged you from today's teaching?
2. **Read Genesis 22, Exodus 12, & Isaiah 53.** How does reading these passages help you to better understand/appreciate the title "Lamb of God," as John applies it to Jesus?
3. **Read Matthew 3:13-17.** Why did Jesus need to be baptized and how does His baptism affirm the Trinity (ONE God with 3 distinct persons)?
4. **Read John 1:35-39.** If you had a day to hang out with Jesus, what questions might you ask Him? Knowing Jesus from the gospels, what characteristics would you expect to see from Him during that time together?
5. What characteristics of Jesus do you see (and appreciate) in those who are discussing these questions with you?
6. **Read John 1:40-42.** What was the first thing Andrew did after spending time with Jesus and why?
7. How does sharing your faith in Jesus with others frighten or excite you? How might praying & preparing to share your faith help you GROW & be more willing to GO to others?
8. Of those you care for who don't know Jesus, who are you currently praying for? Have you ever shared your faith with him/her? If not, why not? If so, how did it go?
9. Conclude by **PRAYING** FOR GOD'S HELP TO SHARE WITH YOUR NON-CHRISTIAN FRIENDS AND FAMILY.