

SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

John 1:19-39

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. 27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. 33 And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

39 “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. Under the law, the sheep died for the shepherd; but under grace, the good Shepherd died for the sheep.

1. In the Lamb of God we find our identity and security.

2. Jesus not only takes away our sins, he also takes them upon himself.

TWO QUESTIONS:

1. Who or what are the things in my life that tempt me to turn to something or someone else other than Jesus as my source of life?

2. In what ways do I give testimony to the person and work of Jesus in my own life?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Please read the passage of Scripture together as a group.

John’s purpose was to share testimony and point to the person and work of Jesus. How can you model your life in this way too?

What do you see in John’s character as he denies the roles that were being assigned to him?

How does he point his followers to ultimately follow Jesus?

What is it that you want from Jesus? What are you looking for from Jesus?

The disciples keep trying to place John at a higher level than Jesus. Is there a leader’s voice in your life you are placing in higher authority than God’s voice? How can you be sure to place Jesus’ voice as the ultimate authority in your life?

Are you willing to follow the invitation to what Jesus is asking? What is one practical way you can do that this week?