

“Come and See the Lamb of God”

Meditation on John 1:29-42

Introduction: The story is told of a little boy trying to draw a picture of a mysterious person. His mother asked him, “Whose face are you drawing?” The boy replied, “The face of Jesus.” His mom retorted “You haven’t seen Jesus; how could you draw his face?” Her boy reacted, “I am not done yet. I am still working on it!”

There is something elusive and mysterious about Jesus. Even John the Baptist did not recognize Jesus at first. “I myself did not know him” (vs. 31, 33) says John until God said to him “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” Simply put, it was God who opened John’s eyes to recognize that Jesus is the Son of God. By the same token, we know Jesus and believe in him only by God’s revelation through the Scripture. “No one can come to me” says Jesus, “unless the Father who sent me draws him” (John 6:44).

SLIDE #1: The Lamb of God: God’s solution to SIN

John was speaking to his disciples when Jesus walked by. And John pointed to Jesus, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” His disciples are Jews, so they know right away that Jesus is connected to the Passover Lamb story in Exodus.

When God was about to deliver Israel from their slavery in Egypt, He instructed every Jewish household to kill a lamb without blemish, apply some of its blood to the doorframe of the house. God said that when He saw the lamb’s blood on the doorframe of a house, the angel of death would pass over that house.

As the first Passover marked the Hebrews’ release from Egyptian slavery, so the death of Christ and his shed blood on the cross marks our release from the slavery of sin, death, and evil. Jesus secured our freedom when he rose from the dead on Sunday morning 2000 years ago. That’s why Christians worship on Sunday.

In God’s view, sin is the source of the world’s problem. All have sinned and fall short of God’s glory” says Romans 3:23. We all have broken God’s law by what we do or fail to do. We humans have done our own thing away from God. As a result, we see the ruin, brokenness, destruction, and evil displayed all over our daily news.

No amount of money can solve the problem of sin. No advanced technology and human ingenuity can solve it. No human will power through self-improvement or behavior modification can solve it. If that were the case, God would not have given us his Son. God was so madly in love with his rebellious creatures, you and I included, that He offered his Son to be sacrificed to save us from sin.

It is not enough to know that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. You and I must know Jesus personally as the Lamb of God who takes away your sin and my sin. Practically speaking, it means, being humble to admit that we are sinners in need of Christ's salvation. Humble enough to trust and accept that the blood of the Lamb shed on the cross and his resurrection can make us clean, gives us a new beginning, and a new life with God.

SLIDE #2: Saved to follow the Lamb of God

Back to the story. The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Behold, here is the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. They followed Jesus and started having a relationship with him.

Like John's disciples, we too believe in Jesus and follow him because someone else led us to him. Perhaps, it was a friend that invited you to try Jesus. Perhaps, you grew up in a Christian home. It does not really matter how, but truth be told, the Lamb of God died for your sin on the cross, rose from the grave to give you new life and eternal life. And he invites you to follow him and uses you to invite others to come to him and receive salvation and new life.

SLIDE #3: Destined to praise the Lamb for eternity

The book of Revelation always mentions the Lamb of God in a heavenly worship setting. The Saints in heaven praise the Lamb "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory" (Revelation 5:12). When we praise the Lamb of God during worship, we are doing the same thing the Saints and angels in heaven are doing. We praise the Lamb of God and seek his mercy and peace because he takes away the sin of the world. Then, he meets us at the Lord's Supper this morning and gives us his body and blood. Come to the Lamb's Table and let him satisfy your hunger and thirst. Let him renew your strength, let him give you new hope, new resolve.

Did you know that the Christian way of fighting against sadness, depression, and hopelessness is to praise Jesus the Lamb of God? "The Saints have conquered evil in this life by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, says Revelation 12:11. When our praise goes up to the Lamb of God, God's blessing power comes down. Amen?

We praise Jesus the Lamb of God because he offered himself as a sacrifice for our sin and conquered evil and death on our behalf. We praise Jesus the Lamb of God because he holds our life in his mighty hands and prepares a glorious future for us. We praise Jesus the Lamb of God because we are rehearsing what we are going to sing in heaven for eternity. "Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his; forever and ever." Amen!

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