

The Lamb of God
John 1:29-34

November 8, 2015

A. Family Get-Together

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D. Jesus' Work

John 1:29

1. the Lamb of God^A
2. taking away sin

E. Jesus' Rank

John 1:30-31

1. John came first
2. Jesus was first^B

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John 1:32-33

1. not with oil, the symbol,
2. but with the Spirit, the reality^C

G. Jesus' Person

John 1:34

1. formal confirmation
2. Son of God

H. Conclusion

^A Isaiah 53:7; Genesis 22:8

^B John 1:15, Galatians 4:4-5

^C Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 4:1-2, 18-19; Isaiah 61:1-2

A. A Family Get-Together

1. you can choose your friends, but not your family
 - a. nevertheless there is a closeness in family, despite differences
 - b. Maureen and I had hoped that my brother, Doug, could make it down from Thunder Bay to be with us this fall, but ...
 - c. commonality of heritage, experience, even mannerisms

2. these are some things true for one's physical family
 - a. when you meet, you can pick up where you last left off
 - b. news and happenings are of interest and concern
 - c. and there is a lot of sharing one with another
 - d. so that it is really great to be able to get together

3. the same is true of one's spiritual family
 - a. for there exists in that a commonality of heritage & experience
 - b. as well as mutual concerns, interests, sharing one with another
 - c. so it is sad to me when Christians neglect the getting together with one another for these good times with the 'family'

4. today we look at two 'cousins'
 - a. Jesus and John the Baptist
 - b. there was the closeness of their mothers – the kinswomen Mary and Elisabeth – who shared three months together as they were expecting their respective sons – sons of promise & divine will
 - (A) Jesus grew up in Galilee, working with His father to learn the trade of being a carpenter until He was about 30 years old
 - (B) John, grew up to live in the Judean desert as a prophet
 - (C) they may or may not have met in those years, possibly at the three annual festivals which were great family events
 - (D) but both would have heard from their parents the wonderful happenings which are recorded in Luke 1-2
 - c. but now they meet one another, not just as a family event, but a critical spiritual event in each one's divine

B. Scripture Reading

John 1:29-34

C. The Baptist's Witness Continues

1. this is day 2 of a four-day period
 - a. the first day was his meeting with the religious delegation of priests and Levites from Jerusalem enquiring as to his credentials
 - b. today we have the direct and indirect records of John the Baptist's meeting with Jesus
 - c. days 3 and 4 are a transition away from John and his disciples to Jesus and His first disciples
2. in the describing these two meetings of the Baptist with Jesus, there is revealed to us some key information to introduce us to Jesus
 - a. His ministry and work
 - b. His greater rank
 - c. His anointing to office
 - d. His person

D. His Work

John 1:29

1. **The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"** (John 1:29 NKJV)
2. Behold!
 - a. those with John – disciples, candidates for baptism, the curious, the scoffers – now have their attention arrested by John's drawing it to the approaching Jesus
 - b. this One, declares the Baptist, is the ...
3. Lamb of God
 - a. in the OT there was the lamb used in the Passover feast – the lamb of deliverance of Israel from the bondage of Egypt
 - b. there were the lambs used as offerings and sacrifices
 - c. there was that spoken of in Isaiah 53:7, **"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth;**

Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7)

- d. some suggest the reference to the lamb provided by God to Abraham on Mount Moriah as a substitute for the sacrifice of Isaac
- e. any and all these may be used to show that the mission of this Jesus was a mission of sacrifice, in which he would give His own life
- f. John the Baptist, as a prophet, not only prepared people for Jesus, but declared by the Spirit in him, what Jesus' Mission would be

4. Takes Away

- a. this is in the present tense: 'that is taking away'
- b. Jesus' whole life and ministry was spent in obeying the command and redemptive plans of His Father for mankind
- c. this is not describing Jesus' bearing our sins – the guilt and punishment for every wrong that we have done – but rather the solution for our sin whereby we can receive forgiveness from God

5. Sin of the World

- a. sin here is singular; it is sin and its effect in totality
- b. by one man, Adam, the transgression came that brought death to all
- c. by one man, Jesus, the effect of that sin on the world is defeated
- d. this does not say that all mankind is saved, as some false cults teach, but that Jesus is salvation for those who respond in faith

E. His Rank

John 1:30-31

- 1. John continues, by saying, "30 This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' 31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." (John 1:30-31 NKJV)
- 2. John the Forerunner
 - a. he was the herald of Christ; of the King
 - b. a most important mission: preparing Israel for their Messiah; but
- 3. Jesus the Superior

- a. we already spoke on this fact when we looked at John 1:15, [John *testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" \(John 1:15\)](#)
- b. Jesus was superior, for though entering the world later than John, and entering His ministry later than John, yet He pre-existed John
- c. Jesus is eternal: the same yesterday, today and forever
- d. but, John has something to add here: Jesus was Man; while the book of John emphasises the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, this gospel never loses sight of the incarnation: ["4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."](#) (Galatians 4:4-5)
- e. so as the Son of Man, Jesus is superior.

4. Jesus was John's Purpose (raison d'être)

- a. John's ministry had one sole focus: preparing God's people to receive Jesus, the Christ
- b. although the fullness of Christ's nature was hidden from John as from the OT prophets, yet John carried out unswervingly his mission

F. His Anointing

John 1:32-33

- 1. [32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'" \(John 1:32-33 NKJV\)](#)
- 2. Anointing with Oil, Symbol of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Exodus 30 describes the manufacture of the oil that was to be used in the anointing of the tabernacle and its furniture
 - (A) by this means it was formally invested into God's service
 - (B) it was sacred oil, its ingredients carefully specified and measured
 - (C) no one was to use its formula for their own purpose
 - b. this same oil was (presumably) in the investiture of the high priest, and later the king of Israel and some of her prophets
 - c. but oil was only symbolic: of that which was holy, separated and set aside for this special use of marking an individual for service to God

3. The Dove, Mark of the Holy Spirit

- a. what is described here took place some 6 weeks or so prior
- b. as recorded in more detail in Matthew 3:13-17, **13 Then Jesus *arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. 14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" 15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he *permitted Him. 16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."**
- c. but the Holy Spirit not only came upon Jesus
 - (A) the OT records many cases where God's Spirit came upon men
 - (B) some were good men, some were middling, some failures
 - (C) but in the OT it was only temporary for a specific mission
 - (D) but in the case of Jesus of Nazareth it was permanent

4. Anointing of the Spirit

- a. so it is that, after this baptism, **"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil...."** (Luke 4:1-2a)
- b. later in Luke 4, Jesus enters the synagogue at Nazareth and explains these events by applying to Himself the words of Isaiah 61:1-2a, **"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; To proclaim the favourable year of the Lord ..."**
- c. thus Jesus enters into His ministry as the Anointed One, Messiah

G. His Person

John 1:34

1. **"And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."** (John 1:34 NKJV)

2. A Formal Confirmation

- a. it is not quite as clear in English as it is in the original language of Greek in which this Gospel is written – but there is a double emphasis in this statement
 - (A) John was an eye-witness to the events he has just described, and since that time there has nothing happened that would cause the slightest shadow of a doubt as to its reality
 - (B) John gave witness to that event when it happened, and that same witness – as in a court of law – has held

firm ever since

- b. the conclusion to be made from this confirmed sight and witness is that Jesus of Nazareth,
 - (A) coming for baptism to John
 - (B) receiving the anointing Presence of God's Holy Spirit
 - (C) receiving approval of God the Father
 - (D) is the ...

3. Son of God

- a. that Messiah was nominated by God as His son is attested in Psalm 2
- b. but in this book of John, as we have already seen, Jesus being named the Son of God goes far beyond his Messianic designation as the representative of the Lord , the King of Israel
- c. but to his eternal, essential relationship of God the Son with God the Father – perhaps it is this, then, that John the Baptist did not know, which until that moment had been undisclosed to him

H. Conclusion

- 1. So Jesus said, that great as John the Baptist was, the least person in the kingdom of God is greater than he – for we have every good reason to place our utmost confidence and faith in Jesus Christ for our salvation, because we know that our Saviour is that eternal Son of God
 - a. so trust in Him no matter what happens
 - b. He is the all-sufficient one to deliver us from this sinful world into the glorious heaven prepared for us

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ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version of 1769
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NEB	New English Bible © 1961, 1970 Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NLT	New Living Translation © 1996 Tyndale Charitable Trust
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version © 1989 National Council of Churches of Christ
RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 National Council of Churches of Christ; Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Some of the commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

Bruce	--	<i>The Gospel & Epistles of John</i> , by F. F. Bruce, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, MI; 1983
BM	-	<i>Biblical Museum</i> , Editor James Comper Gray, ca 1870
EBC	-	<i>The Expositor's Bible Commentary</i> , © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, MI: <i>John</i> , by Merrill C. Tenney
EGT	-	<i>The Expositor's Greek Testament</i> , Hodder & Stoughton; 1903 <i>John</i> , by Marcus Dods
NICNT	-	<i>The New International Commentary on the New Testament</i> <i>The Gospel according to John</i> , by Leon Morris
NTC	-	<i>New Testament Commentary</i> , by William Hendriksen; Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI; 1954
RWP	-	<i>Robertson's Word Pictures of the New Testament</i> , by Dr. A. T. Robertson
TEC	--	<i>The Gospel according to John</i> , by George Allen Turner & Julius R. Mantey, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, MI; ca 1965
TTBC	-	Thru the Bible Commentary Series, by J. Vernon McGee; John 11-21; Thomas Nelson Publishers; 1991