

April 13-14, 2024

Sermon Notes: Jesus, the Lamb of God (John 1:29-34)

PPT Title Slide: The Gospel of John, *Life in His Name*...Jesus, The Lamb of God (Jn 1:29-34)

Good evening/morning we are continuing in our summer series...(above)

As you heard from Pastor Kyle last week, the purpose of the Apostle John's gospel is that those who read/hear will have proof and be convinced that Jesus is the Messiah. And...in doing so, they would know that Jesus is the one who can save us so we can experience the fullness of the life that He offers both here and for eternity.

We also learned several theological aspects of Jesus or God the Son:

- *He is The Word (v1)*
- *He is eternal (v2)*
- *He is creator (v3)*
- *He is the life and true light (v4-9)*
- *He has authority to save and welcome believers into the family of God (v13)*
- *He is full of glory, grace, and truth (v14)*
- *He is the only Son of God (v14)*
- *He is the giver of grace and truth (v17)*
- *He has illuminated God to us (v18)*

The Apostle John now transitions from a theological declaration about Jesus to the historical section of the book.

And in keeping with his purpose to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, he calls upon a "prize witness" to validate his case.

Before getting into today's passage, I want us to share a common perspective...a lens we've all looked through before.

?- Can you remember a time when you were first exposed to something magnificent?

PPT: *Images (7)*

In all of these cases, either someone pointed them out to you and said, "Look!" or you turned to those around you and said, "Look at that!".

Today's passage exposes us to the most magnificent sighting ever...Jesus The Lamb of God, pointed out by a truly great man...John the Baptist.

PPT: Passage of John 1:29-34

Open your bibles to John 1:29-34, page _____ in your pew bibles.

- Let's stand while we read this together.
- Prayer

Well, you heard a key word in the passage, "BEHOLD", a word that can be found over 1300 times in the Bible. Behold is used to:

- Draw attention to something or someone.
- Express wonder, amazement, or significance
- Serve as a command or instruction to pay attention.

The New Testament Greek version used in verse 29 is "ἴδε" or (pronounced id'-eh) which is an emphatic, "See! Lo! Behold! Look!".

So, as we dig a little deeper into this passage, that word "behold" will be central to our review. With that, I have just three points to share with you today and I'll give them to you up-front:

PPT:

1. The credibility of the beholder (John the Baptist)
2. The durability of the one beheld (Jesus)
3. The applicability to future beholding (The Good News)

Setting the scene here...John (the Apostle) outlines three sequential days involving John (the Baptist's) testimony about Jesus.

PPT: Three Days of John's Testimony

1. Day 1 – A company of priests and Levites were sent to question him.
2. Day 2 – John the Baptist announces Jesus as He truly is for the first time.
3. Day 3 – John the Baptist exhorts his disciples to follow Jesus.

Let's start with point #1, the credibility of the beholder. (John the Baptist) Since we know that John the Apostle's goal of writing this book is to prove beyond a doubt that Jesus is the Messiah then he could not have chosen a more credible witness in John the Baptist.

Now we don't have a lot of time to spend on John the Baptist, but let's ground ourselves in a few details of his background:

- Much of John’s background is covered in the first chapter of Luke.
- He was the “forerunner of our Lord” (see Luke 1)
- He was of priestly decent, Father Zacharias, was a priest of the course of Abia (1 Ch 24:10) Priests were the most respected people in the local communities.
- He was born about six months prior to Jesus and likely a cousin, because his mother Elisabeth and Mary were related.
- Little is recorded of his early life; however, we know that he suddenly appeared preaching (Mk 1:4) and that great multitudes were attracted to hear him speak in the wilderness. (*After all they hadn’t heard from God in 400 years*)
- Despite his popularity, John exhibited great humility. (He knew his place in God’s plan, “*he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.*” (John 1:27b))
- Lastly, Jesus later referred to John as the greatest man that ever lived up until His time. (Mt 11:11)

The people had a lot of interest in John because of the greatness of his preaching....

- The sum of his preaching was the necessity of repentance and to make way for the coming Messiah. Self-love and covetous were prevalent sins of that time of the people at large.
- They would have recalled the words of the prophet Isaiah (Isa 40:3-5)

³ ^cA voice cries:²

^d“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

^emake straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ ^fEvery valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵ ^gAnd the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

^hfor the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

The religious leaders questioning him and the multitudes of people coming to hear him all added to his credibility.

It’s easy to see why God called John the Baptist to usher in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Let’s move on to point #2, The durability of the one beheld.

PPT: Behold

John empathically says, “LOOK!” when he sees Jesus and tells us critical truths about Him.

1. The first critical truth is that Jesus is the “*Lamb of God*” (v29)
 - Sacrifice of a lamb as a substitute or atonement for sin (Old Testament, Isa 53:7)
 - Prescribed as a guilt offering (Lev 14:10-25)
 - “*Takes away the sin of the world*” reflects the sacrificial character of Christ’s mission and the atoning work of His sacrifice once and for all.
 - They were expecting a conqueror and John points out a lamb.

John continues with his admission that Jesus “came before me” (v 30) and he only baptized with water while Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. (v 31-34)

2. The second critical truth John points out is that Jesus is the “Son of God” (v 34)
 - John’s baptism of water was rooted in the Old Testament and associated with the coming of the Messiah...it was a spiritual cleansing in preparation. (Zechariah 13:1)
 - Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit (v 33)
 - John saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus when he baptized him. (v 32) *The Holy Spirit is the seal of our salvation and new life as Christ-followers. **IT IS DURABLE***
 - **This is important...**Repentance and confession are the conditions on which the believer receives the gift of salvation.
 - o **PPT:** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)
 - So, John’s testimony was complete with the declaration that he had seen the Spirit descend upon Jesus and that...”*this is The Son of God.*” (v 34)
 - Thus, the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry.

Finally, let’s look at the third point, the applicability to future beholding. (The Good News)

We can learn so much about the way in which John pointed people to Jesus: Two specific characteristics come to mind...

1. He was HUMBLE...”*the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie*” (Jn 1:27). Later on he told his followers who were pressing him about his status that...”*He must increase, but I must decrease.*” (Jn 3:30)
2. He was BOLD...”*make way the path of the Lord*” (John 1:23) He wasn’t afraid to call out the religious leaders of his time...”*You brood of viper! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*” (Mt 3:7)

The combination of Humility and Boldness is quite effective.

- Many are humble, but not necessarily bold. (Timid)
- At the same time, many are bold yet lack humility. (Aggressive)
- Behold(ing) others to the saving grace that comes from Jesus Christ requires us to be both and God will most certainly provide us these attributes if we ask in faith.

In summary, we've seen through this passage:

1. The credibility of the beholder (John the Baptist)
2. The durability of the one beheld (Jesus)
3. The applicability to future beholding (The Good News)

PPT:

Now let's focus on the application for all of us here today which is very straightforward:

Application

JOHN

Accept	Jesus as your personal savior.
Point	others to the Lamb of God.
Behold	Him daily through His word.

APB
ALL POINTS BULLETIN

Now, let's take it to the next level...

I'm going to ask you to calm your mind, bow your heads and think about a person in your life that you want to say "Behold" or "look" at Jesus.

My friends are going to pass around a small Gospel of John (NLT)...before you leave today, commit to who you will share that book with and like John the Baptist, do it with **boldness** and **humility**.

Let's pray...