

We have found the Messiah!

**John 1:29-41**

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

<sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup> I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’” <sup>34</sup> I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.”

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

<sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

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

<sup>39</sup> “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

<sup>40</sup> Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup> The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

There are many people named John in the world. John is currently the second most common name for males in the US. There are many famous people named John—actors, singers, musicians, authors, politicians, etc. Do you know any Johns personally? Has anyone named John ever done anything to help you?

Today we hear about two people named John. Both of them lived about 2000 years ago, and they knew each other. Still today God uses these two people named John to help us. Through their testimony God leads us to the Savior. John the Baptist and John the Apostle knew who the Savior was. They could say, “We have found the Messiah!” Because of them, you and I can say the same thing:

Part One: God testified about Him through John (the Baptist).

John the Baptist was an interesting person. He was preaching in the desert. He was telling people to confess their sins because the Savior was about to come into the world. He was baptizing people with water for the forgiveness of sins. Many people were going out to listen to John. Many people were being baptized. But the religious leaders in Jerusalem did not trust him. They asked him if he was the Savior. When he said no, they asked him why he had the authority to start baptizing people. John explained that he was the forerunner to the Savior, foretold through the prophet Isaiah 700 years earlier and sent now by God.

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” John spoke these words in front of many people. John’s own disciples heard this testimony and

many others in the crowd heard it too. Years later when Jesus came back to this region, the people there remembered what John had said about Jesus. They said, **“Everything John said about Him was true!”** (John 10:41).

John the Baptist’s words are quoted word for word, **“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”** John spoke these words with excitement—“Look!” John’s words are concise, but extremely important. We should engrave them in our hearts and minds. These are deathless words—words that will never die. Even in heaven, right now, and for all eternity Jesus is called the Lamb. For example, it says in Revelation, **“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb... They cried out in a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’”** (7:9-10)

John calls Jesus “the Lamb” because He is the One who can free us from our sins, from death, and from eternal punishment. In Old Testament times the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt and from death by the blood of a lamb painted on their doorframes (see Exodus 12). Later, as the Israelites worshiped the Lord at the tabernacle and at the temple in Jerusalem, their day began and ended with the sacrifice of a lamb. Those lambs were sacrifices for the sins of the people. All of those lambs were shadows pointing ahead to the Savior.

**“Look the Lamb of God!”** John the Baptist was saying, “Here is the real Lamb, the perfect Lamb, chosen by God and sent by Him. He is the one who can really take away your sins and give you eternal life.” John declares that Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” Sin is missing the mark (God’s commandments), not doing what God commands, and doing what God has forbidden.

Because we are the sinful descendants of Adam and Eve, we have a hard time seeing things from other people’s perspectives. That is one of the things that adds stress to marriage and takes a lot of joy out of our families. We are selfish, self-centered, seeing things only from our perspective. But that is especially true of our relationship with God! We fail to see things from God’s perspective. We have a hard time seeing our sins and the seriousness of those sins. Mankind naturally thinks, “My sins are not so bad. I do not deserve eternal punishment. Jesus does not have to die on a cross and suffer the punishment of hell in my place.” The more we read the Bible, though, the more we think about things (including our own lives) from God’s perspective.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. That includes the sins of all people, of all ages and nations. When Jesus comes back on the Last Day, there may be a baby that was born just seconds earlier and many babies still inside their mothers. When Jesus carried the sins of the world to the cross two thousand years ago, He was carrying Adam and Eve’s sins and the sins of those babies too. Jesus offered Himself as the payment for their sins and for the sins of everyone in between, including you and me!

Commenting on this verse, Martin Luther said, “Sin has only two places where it may be; either it may be with you, so that it lies upon your neck, or upon Christ, the Lamb of God. If now it lies upon your neck, you are lost (condemned to hell). If, however, it lies upon Christ, you are free and will be saved. Take now whichever you prefer.” Included in the words of John the Baptist is the gracious invitation to look at Jesus and believe in Him as the Lamb of God who takes away your sins!

John the Baptist was sure that Jesus was the Lamb of God, because God told him in advance about a sign that he would see. This sign was fulfilled when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. The Holy Spirit came down out of heaven as a dove and remained on Jesus. John saw it with his own eyes. From that day on John knew with all certainty that Jesus was the One. John the Baptist’s testimony is for us too so we can be sure that Jesus is the Messiah.

Part Two: God testified about Him through John (the apostle).

<sup>35</sup> **The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.** <sup>36</sup> **When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God!’** The following day, John the Baptist came to the same spot with two of his disciples, and repeated the message again. These two disciples understood what John and what Jesus wanted them to do.

Jesus was the Savior. John was just the forerunner to the Savior. It was time for them to leave John and become Jesus' disciples. <sup>37</sup> **When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.**

John tells that one of these disciples was Andrew. The other one, not mentioned by name, is John the Apostle (who wrote this Gospel of John). **Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"** <sup>39</sup> **"Come," he replied, "and you will see."** After spending a day with Jesus, these two were convinced that Jesus was the Promised Savior, the Christ. Andrew went and told his brother Peter, "We have found the Messiah!" Later, John also went and told his brother James, "We have found the Messiah!" How quickly Jesus' followers doubled from 2 to 4! Jesus is the Prophet who speaks God's Word to us. Jesus is the Priest who took away our sins by sacrificing Himself on the cross. Jesus is the powerful King who has fought for us and conquered all our enemies including death and the devil. When believers say, "We have found the Messiah" what they really mean is "The Messiah has led me to Himself." Those who find Jesus in this way will want to tell others. They will begin with the people they know and love the most, their own family.

Jesus' apostles, including John, saw the glory of God's one and only Son. It began on this day, when two of them spent the day with Him, and it continued until the time they saw the Risen Savior taken up into heaven. They saw His glory, and they have testified about His glory in the New Testament. Because of the testimony of the Apostle John and the other apostles, and because of the Holy Spirit working in our hearts, we are able to say too, "We have found the Messiah."

John is such a popular name that there is such a thing as a "Dear John letter." Do you know what that is? It is a letter that a woman writes to a man she has been dating. She says, basically, "Dear John, our relationship is not going to work. I am sorry, but it is time for us to part ways." We can give thanks to God today, because the testimony of John the Baptist and the testimony of the Apostle John assure us that the Lord will never leave or forsake us. He is always waiting for us to follow Him. To us too Jesus says, "I can give you anything and everything. What are you looking for?" To us too Jesus says, "Come to me and I will give you rest for your souls." To us too Jesus says, "I am preparing a place for you in heaven. Keep watching, stay alert, because I am coming back for you" (John 14:13). Amen.